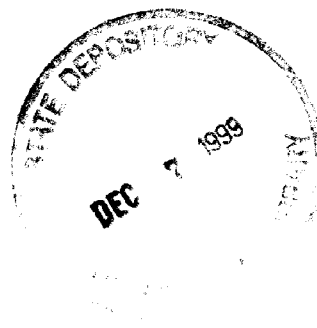


ANALYSIS OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

Fiscal Year 2001

November 17, 1999



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ROBERT M. BELL

CHIEF JUDGE

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

ROBERT C. MURPHY COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING

361 ROWE BOULEVARD

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1699

November 17, 1999

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Judgeship Needs for Fiscal Year 2001

Gentlemen:

Adhering to established procedure, I am submitting the *Annual Certification of Needs for Additional Judgeships for Fiscal Year 2001*.

As the enclosed data will demonstrate, we have certified a need for additional judgeships in Calvert, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Washington and Worcester Counties. With respect to our analysis and as a result of a variety of circumstances, the Judiciary's Fiscal Year 2001 request for additional judgeships will be limited to one judgeship for the Circuit Court for Worcester County to be assigned circuit-wide responsibilities (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties) to be determined by the Circuit Administrative Judge for the First Judicial Circuit. This judgeship will be used principally like a family division judge for the circuit.

Additionally, as result of recent appellate decisions and the need to enhance the uniformity of practice within the circuit courts, the Judiciary is poised to adopt a policy relating to the utilization of standing masters that establishes judges at the center of the adjudication process in family law matters. This policy is contingent upon the acquisition of additional judgeships beginning in the Family Divisions of our five largest jurisdictions over the next two fiscal years. As such, we are requesting that the General Assembly establish one additional judgeship for Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City in Fiscal Year 2001 and an equal number of judgeships in Fiscal Year 2002 for this purpose.

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
November 17, 1999
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In conclusion, the Judiciary is requesting a total of six additional judgeships in Fiscal Year 2001. Our decision to request judgeships for those jurisdictions with special emphasis on family law was one born out of a need to ensure these cases be expedited to minimize the trauma of litigation and ensure the safety and support for all family members. With the support of the other branches of government, the Judiciary will continue to be innovative in responding to its escalating dockets and their diverse and changing composition. Please call upon me if you require any further information.

Respectfully yours,


Robert M. Bell

cc: Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor
Honorable Barbara A. Hoffman, Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Honorable Walter M. Baker, Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Honorable Howard P. Rawlings, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Honorable Ida G. Ruben, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Honorable Peter Franchot, House Appropriations Committee
Honorable William D. Schaefer, State Comptroller
Honorable Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals
Honorable Paul H. Weinstein, Chairman, Conference of Circuit Judges
Honorable Martha F. Rasin, Chief Judge, District Court
Honorable Maurice W. Baldwin, Jr., Chair, Executive Comm. of the
Maryland Judicial Conference
Honorable Frederick W. Puddeste, Secretary, Department of Budget
and Management
Circuit Administrative Judges
Joseph C. Bryce, Chief Legislative Officer
Stephen E. Harris, Esq., State Public Defender
Frank Broccolina, Acting State Court Administrator
Karl S. Aro, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Reference
Stephanie Ennel, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget Management
Honorable Donna G. Burch, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks
Matthew Klein, Administrative Analyst, Department of Fiscal Services

Exhibit A
Certification Process

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

At the suggestion of the Legislative Policy Committee, the Maryland Judiciary began an annual procedure of formally certifying to the General Assembly the need for additional judges on January 4, 1979. Since implementation, the process has allowed the Judiciary the opportunity to present the need for judgeships annually based on a review of comprehensive factors relating to the capacity with which the State's judicial system is able to process cases in a timely and equitable manner.

Three different steps are involved in the Chief Judge's Certification Process. The starting point and the subject of this report is an analysis prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Information relating to actual and projected filings, the number of pending cases per judge, the number of dispositions per judge, the ratio of attorneys to judges, the time required for civil, criminal, and juvenile cases from filing through disposition, and the population per judge are compiled and reviewed. Caseload projections are then applied to these data and preliminary trends are identified. It is important to emphasize that these indicators are only precursory and are meant to act only as a starting point in determining the need for additional judicial positions.

The second phase of the certification process involves the local trial courts. It is at this stage of development, after reviewing the preliminary analysis and assessing local factors unique to a particular court, that each Circuit Administrative Judge responds to the need for additional judgeships. In preparation of this response, the Circuit Administrative Judge is advised to: (1) seek the views of individual County Administrative Judges; (2) solicit opinions from members of the bench and bar from that county; and (3) consult with State and local legislators, and other individuals involved with providing local funding support. Based on a thorough review of the local situation, and other pertinent factors that

may support the need for increased judicial resources, the Circuit Administrative Judge is asked to address the following points:

- If there is agreement with the information indicating a need for additional resources, are there physical facilities and available local financial support for additional judgeships? Does the local delegation of State legislators support this need? What is the position of the local bar and others who might be called upon to support the request for an additional judgeship?
- If there is disagreement with the analysis against additional judges, what factors support this view? Are all caseflow management procedures being utilized in order to minimize the need for more judges (e.g., inter- or intra-circuit assignment, District Court judges, or retired judges).
- If there is disagreement with an indication suggesting the need for additional judges, what factors support this view (e.g., the availability of inter- or intra-circuit assignments or the use of District Court or retired judges, the lack of physical facilities or the lack of fiscal support, improved administrative procedures, etc.)?

The final phase of the certification plan occurs when the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals reviews the responses from administrative judges, as well as the preliminary analysis. Before making a final decision, the Chief Judge also may discuss the request further with the administrative judge or other informed sources. Final certification is then forwarded to the legislative leadership based on a distillation of all the information available.

II. METHODOLOGY FOR ANALYSIS

To identify a basis for the need for judgeships, a variety of factors influencing the workload and performance of the courts assesses the need of each jurisdiction. The efficacy of these factors are considered in light of case filing projections developed for the out-years and then applied comparatively to a particular filing to judge standard. If this relative analysis indicates a need for an additional judgeship, it is likely that a strong statistical need exists for an additional judgeship in that jurisdiction.

In instances where there exists a clearly defined lack of statistical need, the confluence of circumstances within individual courts may have a precipitous effect on the need for increased resources. Such an indication may be reflected in the litigiousness of individual cases or practices unique to the local legal culture.

Traditionally, the time required to terminate cases is one method of ascertaining how the circuit courts are coping with increases in caseload. Table 3 illustrates the average number of days between filing and disposition for all cases terminated over the past four fiscal years. Table 5 provides a breakdown of the number of hearings conducted by case type and jurisdiction, as well as statewide comparative rankings. Workload measures are compared in Table 6 and include: filings per judge; pending cases per judge; dispositions per judge; population per judge; and ratio of attorneys to judges. Detailed population statistics are found in Table 4. All variables are ranked in Table 8 and distinguish between predictive factors and performance factors. Predictive factors generally indicate those elements that may affect the volume of workload in the courts for the foreseeable future, while performance factors tend to illustrate the ability of the courts to address the workload. Comparison of these factors in Table 9 provides further insight into the relative needs of each jurisdiction in Maryland in terms of volume and its ability to cope with workload demands.

Since the certification process began in January of 1979, 53 circuit court judgeships and 22 District Court judgeships have been created by the General Assembly.

III. GENERAL TRENDS WITHIN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

Filing activity in the circuit courts has increased more than 9 percent over the last five years, from 254,708 total filings during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current total of 278,469 filings. Increases were noted in each functional area with the greatest increase occurring in civil case filings. There were 147,784 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared with 167,265 filings during Fiscal Year 1999. Criminal filings followed, increasing approximately 5 percent (i.e., from 68,672 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 72,123 in Fiscal Year 1999), while a 2.2 percent rise was noted in juvenile case filings (i.e., from 38,252 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 39,081 in Fiscal Year 1999).

Categorically, a 7.7 percent increase in domestic-related filings over the five-year period contributed to the reported increase in civil case filings. During Fiscal Year 1995, 84,493 domestic-related cases were filed. That figure compares with 90,993 filings during Fiscal Year 1999. Parallel to the rise in domestic-related filings has been a 12.4 percent increase in civil hearings, from 83,152 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 93,424 hearings in Fiscal Year 1999. To lessen the burden of the increased caseload, many circuit court judges have received the assistance of masters in conducting the hearings. However, with the proposed policy limiting the duties of masters, the court will be challenged to expeditiously resolve its increased hearing docket without compromising the quality of justice to which the citizenry of Maryland is entitled. This may require additional judicial assistance, particularly in those jurisdictions that have separate family divisions that attempt to address all of the issues of the family with one judge.

Likewise, the increase in criminal filings was fueled by a 9.4 percent rise in jury trial prayers emanating from the District Court (i.e., from 22,949 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 25,098 in Fiscal Year 1999), coupled with a 3.2 percent increase in indictment and information filings. There were 36,331 indictment and information cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared with 37,508 during Fiscal Year 1999. Over the last several years, the circuit courts have been besieged with cases arising out of the violation of the CDS laws of this State. Many of those offenders are recidivists, often clogging the criminal dockets with violation of probation proceedings.

A 7.4 percent increase in delinquency filings, from 26,091 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 28,009 in Fiscal Year 1999, mitigated by a 20.7 percent reduction in CINA case filings (i.e., from 11,851 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 9,399 in Fiscal Year 1999) contributed to the comparatively slight increase reported in total juvenile filings over the last five years.

Judgeships Created Since 1979		
Jurisdiction	Circuit Court	District Court
Anne Arundel	3	2
Baltimore County	6	1
Baltimore City	8	4
Calvert	1	
Carroll	1	
Cecil	1	
Charles	3	1
Frederick	2	1
Harford	2	1
Howard	2	3
Montgomery	7	4
Prince George's	11	4
St. Mary's	2	
Washington	2	
Wicomico	1	1
Worcester	1	
TOTAL	53	22

Note: There were two District Court judgeships authorized during the 1996 Session of the General Assembly, one in Anne Arundel County and one in Baltimore City. Those two judgeships were to be shared with the District Court in Baltimore County.

Exhibit A

Jury Trial Prayers

	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
Baltimore City*	4,061	3,140	3,450	4,317	4,293	3,752	3,255	3,841	5,279	4,365
Anne Arundel	2,045	2,383	2,599	1,274	827	746	692	596	479	572
Baltimore	5,691	4,002	2,952	2,409	2,835	2,356	2,354	2,143	2,134	1,997
Montgomery	2,210	1,810	2,493	2,093	1,454	1,560	1,713	1,223	1,241	1,459
Prince George's	3,314	2,955	3,297	2,757	2,836	2,652	3,628	2,518	3,878	5,430
Other Counties	10,562	10,814	11,471	11,434	11,452	11,883	11,575	11,390	11,370	11,275
TOTAL	27,883	25,104	26,262	24,284	23,707	22,949	23,217	21,711	24,381	25,098

*Based on the number of defendants provided by the Criminal Assignment Office of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Indictment and Information Filings

	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
Baltimore City	8,405	13,351	14,555	13,187	14,136	14,372	14,558	15,118	15,589	16,075
Anne Arundel County	2,493	3,281	4,219	4,132	3,978	3,795	3,508	3,268	3,325	3,829
Baltimore County	2,974	2,910	3,271	3,373	3,291	3,536	4,003	4,140	4,218	4,041
Montgomery County	2,371	1,943	2,573	2,959	2,257	2,357	2,650	2,399	2,250	1,916
Prince George's County	4,326	4,340	5,340	5,242	4,648	4,420	4,580	5,212	4,738	4,333
Other Counties	7,701	7,363	7,830	7,464	7,152	7,851	7,872	7,727	7,917	7,314
TOTAL	28,270	33,188	37,788	36,357	35,462	36,331	37,171	37,864	38,037	37,508

Exhibit A-1

Circuit Courts Analysis

CIRCUIT COURTS ANALYSIS

Allegany County

Allegany County is located in the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Maryland. This jurisdiction has experienced an exodus of residents over the last ten years, from 74,946 during the April 1990 Census, to the projected July 1, 2000 population of 70,100 residents, a decrease of approximately 6.5 percent.

In contrast, total filings have increased more than 28 percent, from 2,680 in Fiscal Year 1995 to the current level of 3,440 total filings. Increasing most significantly were civil case filings. During Fiscal Year 1999, there were 2,508 civil cases filed, an increase of 39.6 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 1,796 filings. Fueling the rise in civil filings was a 60.7 percent increase in domestic filings, from 989 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,589 filings in Fiscal Year 1999. Juvenile filings also increased during the five-year period. There were 357 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of nearly 35 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 265 filings. During that same period, delinquency filings rose approximately 36.5 percent (i.e., from 178 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 243 filings in Fiscal Year 1999), contributing to the overall increase. The only decrease during the last five years was reported in criminal filings. After increasing steadily for three years, criminal filings decreased 17.6 percent over the last two years, from 698 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 575 filings. The current decrease in overall criminal filings can be attributed

to a 17.6 percent reduction in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court. There were 438 jury trial prayers reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 361 filings. The net decrease in criminal filings over the last five years was 7.1 percent (i.e., from 619 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 575 in Fiscal Year 1999).

Currently, there are two resident judges and one part-time standing master assigned to adjudicate Allegany County's increasing caseload. The judges and master presided over 2,702 hearings during Fiscal Year 1999. Hearings conducted in Allegany County increased more than 38 percent since Fiscal Year 1995 when 1,951 hearings were conducted. Inmate litigation generated from the Western Correctional Institution contributed to the increased hearings. Expanded bed space at the existing facility, coupled with the construction of a new 1,200 bed facility is expected to impact caseload in Allegany County in the coming years.

During Fiscal Year 1999, approximately 1,720 filings were reported per judge, while nearly 1,700 cases were disposed per judge. Allegany County recorded the ninth longest criminal case disposition time (136 days) and the tenth longest juvenile case disposition time (70 days).

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County has more than 486,000 residents. Since 1990, this jurisdiction has experienced an influx of approximately 59,161 new inhabitants, an increase of nearly

14 percent. During Fiscal Year 1999, Anne Arundel County ranked fourth in population per judge (48,120 residents).

Anne Arundel County reported 21,405 total filings during Fiscal Year 1999, representing a 5.6 percent increase over the previous year's total of 20,274 filings. Nearly 61 percent (12,989 filings) of the caseload comprised civil filings, while criminal case filings accounted for approximately 23.4 percent (5,001 filings) of the total cases. With respect to categorical distribution of cases, 31.2 percent (6,668 filings) of the total caseload comprised domestic-related matters, while nearly 18 percent (3,829 filings) and 13.4 percent (2,858) were indictment/information and delinquency cases, respectively. A great percentage of the court's criminal docket comprises cases arising from the violation of the CDS laws of this State.

With a Fiscal Year 1999 ranking of fifth in both filings and dispositions per judge, Anne Arundel County reported 2,141 filings and 1,980 dispositions per judge. An average of 246 days was expended in civil case disposition (second statewide), while criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 135 and 63 days, respectively. During Fiscal Year 1999, Anne Arundel County ranked eleventh in hearings conducted per judge and standing master with 1,478 hearings. Additionally, Anne Arundel County ranked first in predictive factors, suggesting a high volume of cases per judge and eighth in performance factors, indicating a slower ability to handle workload. With the assistance of five standing masters, the court has managed to effectively move its caseload. However, the proposed changes

in the duties of masters will impact workload and necessitate the need for additional judicial resources to ensure the citizenry the level of service to which it has become accustomed.

Baltimore City

Baltimore City has continued to experience a decrease in population since the April 1990 Census. More than 116,000 residents have departed Baltimore City over the last ten years, representing a 15.8 percent decrease in population. During Fiscal Year 1999, there were approximately 21,090 residents per judge.

Although faced with a declining population, the courts have continued to be inundated with a steadily increasing docket. In fact, over the last five years filing activity has increased nearly 18 percent, from 59,476 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 69,976 filings. Baltimore City's 69,976 filings accounted for more than 25 percent of the total cases filed statewide. During Fiscal Year 1999, Baltimore City ranked first statewide in filings recorded per judge (2,333 filings). Civil cases comprised nearly 47 percent of the total caseload with 32,742 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1999. More than 40 percent of the civil caseload comprised domestic-related matters (13,276 filings), while approximately 35 percent of the reported cases (24,464 filings) were of a criminal nature. Baltimore City reported 33.8 percent of the total statewide criminal caseload and 26.6 percent of the juvenile caseload during Fiscal Year 1999. In addition to adjudicating more than one third of the State's criminal cases, Baltimore City has been plagued with an ever-increasing domestic docket and mounting complex civil tort litigation (e.g., asbestos and

lead paint cases). Domestic-related filings increased approximately 39 percent over the last five years, from 9,549 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 13,276 in Fiscal Year 1999. During the same period, delinquency filings increased 39.1 percent (i.e., from 6,221 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 8,652 in Fiscal Year 1999), while indictment and information case filings rose 11.8 percent (i.e., from 14,372 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 16,075 in Fiscal Year 1999).

Baltimore City's increasing caseload was evidenced by its ranking of first statewide in filings per judge (2,333) and second in dispositions (1,884) per judge. Additionally, Baltimore City ranked first in civil case disposition time (276 days) and second in juvenile case disposition time (84 days) during Fiscal Year 1999. Baltimore City ranked first in performance factors and second in predictive factors.

Currently, Baltimore City has a complement of thirty judges and fourteen standing masters to adjudicate its ever-increasing caseload.

Baltimore County

Baltimore County's projected July 1, 2000 population of 725,800 represents an increase of nearly 34,000 inhabitants or approximately 4.9 percent over the last ten years. With an average of 45,244 residents per judge, Baltimore County ranked sixth statewide in population per judge during Fiscal Year 1999.

Over the last five years, total filings in Baltimore County rose approximately 6.2 percent, from 26,810 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 28,479 filings. The most significant increase was noted in civil case filings. During the five-year period, civil filings increased more than 12 percent (i.e., from 14,957 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 16,764 in Fiscal Year 1999). Categorically, an increase of more than 100 percent in general civil cases (i.e., foreclosures, injunctions, change of name, etc.), coupled with a 5.4 percent rise in domestic-related filings (i.e., from 7,892 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 8,316 in Fiscal Year 1999) fueled the overall increase in civil cases. During that same period, a 14.3 percent increase in indictment and information filings (i.e., from 3,536 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 4,041 in Fiscal Year 1999), mitigated by a 15.2 percent decrease in jury trial prayers (i.e., from 2,356 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,997 in Fiscal Year 1999) contributed to the 3.3 percent rise in total criminal case filings (i.e., from 7,225 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 7,465 in Fiscal Year 1999). Juvenile case filings was the only functional area in which a decrease was realized, 8.2 percent, from 4,628 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 4,250 filings. An 8.2 percent reduction in delinquency filings (i.e., from 4,015 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,684 in Fiscal Year 1999) contributed to the reported decrease.

Baltimore County ranked fourteenth in filings per judge (1,780 filings) and thirteenth in dispositions per judge (1,655 dispositions) during Fiscal Year 1999. Approximately 959 hearings were conducted per judge and standing master during the same period. Baltimore County reported the sixth longest disposition time for both civil cases (222 days)

and juvenile cases (74 days). During Fiscal Year 1999, there were sixteen judges and five standing masters assigned to Baltimore County.

Calvert County

Calvert County continues to be the fastest growing subdivision in Maryland. Since the April 1990 Census, total population increased more than 49 percent or 25,328 additional residents. During Fiscal Year 1999, Calvert County ranked ninth in population per judge (37,150 residents).

Filing activity in Calvert County rose approximately 19.3 percent over the last five years, from 3,752 total filings during Fiscal Year 1995, to 4,477 during Fiscal Year 1999. The greatest increase occurred in civil case filings. There were 2,068 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared with the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 3,066 filings, an increase of 48.3 percent. Igniting the increase in civil filings was a 54.7 percent rise in domestic-related filings (i.e., from 1,521 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,353 in Fiscal Year 1999). Juvenile filings also increased during the five-year period, from 592 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 735 in Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of more than 24 percent. Contributing to the reported increase was a 24 percent rise in delinquency filings, from 441 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 547 in Fiscal Year 1999. In contrast, a 45.3 percent decrease in indictment and information filings, coupled with a 34.3 percent reduction in jury trial prayers contributed to a 38.1 percent decrease in overall criminal filings.

Calvert County's two judges are assisted by the equivalent of one full-time standing master to adjudicate its caseload. During Fiscal Year 1999, Calvert County ranked second in filings per judge (2,239 filings) and first in both hearings per judge and standing master (2,026 hearings) and dispositions per judge (2,214 dispositions). With respect to case disposition, Calvert County reported the seventh longest disposition time in both civil (222 days) and juvenile cases (73 days). As Calvert County's overall caseload continues to burgeon, the court will be challenged to employ innovative methods to continue to effectively manage its docket.

Caroline County

Population in this Eastern Shore subdivision has increased approximately 11 percent over the last ten years, from 27,035 during the April 1990 Census, to the projected July 1, 2000 population of 30,000 residents. Caroline County ranked fifteenth in population per judge during Fiscal Year 1999 (29,800 residents).

During the last five years, Caroline County has experienced a 10.3 percent rise in total case filings, from 1,541 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,700 filings in Fiscal Year 1999. The only functional area in which an increase was noted during the five-year period was juvenile case filings. There was a 117.9 percent rise in juvenile filings since Fiscal Year 1995, from 156 to the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 340 filings. A 123.4 percent rise in CINA filings (i.e., from 47 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 105 in Fiscal Year 1999), coupled with a 115.9 percent increase in delinquency filings (i.e., from 107 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 231 in Fiscal

Year 1999) contributed to the reported increase. Both civil and criminal case filings remained relatively consistent over the five-year period with no significant categorical fluctuations.

Caroline County has one judge who is assisted by a part-time standing master. During Fiscal Year 1999, Caroline County ranked fifth in hearings conducted per judge and standing master (1,819 hearings). During the same period, Caroline County reported the third longest criminal case disposition time (157 days).

Carroll County

One of the fastest growing areas in the State, Carroll County ranked first in population per judge during Fiscal Year 1999 (50,967 residents). Carroll County's projected July 1, 2000 population of 156,200 residents represents an increase of 26.6 percent over the April 1990 Census when 123,372 residents were recorded.

Over the last five years, total filings in Carroll County decreased approximately 12.9 percent, from 6,143 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 5,350 filings. Decreases in two of the three functional areas contributed to the reported decrease. The only overall increase was noted in juvenile case filings. There were 789 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to 887 during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 12.4 percent. Fueling that increase was 90.5 percent rise in CINA filings (i.e., from 84 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 160 in Fiscal Year 1999). In contrast, an 11.2 percent decrease in domestic filings

and a 48.1 percent decline in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court contributed to the decreases in total civil and criminal cases, respectively. Since Fiscal Year 1995, civil case filings decreased 24.9 percent, from 3,248 to the current level of 2,882 filings. Likewise, criminal case filings decreased 24.9 percent, from 2,106 filings in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,581 filings in Fiscal Year 1999. While a decrease in total filings has occurred over the last five years, the number of hearings conducted has increased 24.1 percent during the same period (i.e., from 5,489 during Fiscal Year 1995, to 6,813 during Fiscal Year 1999). The greatest increase (56 percent) occurred in criminal hearings, from 1,630 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 2,542 hearings. During Fiscal Year 1999, Carroll County ranked tenth in hearings conducted per judge and standing master. It is anticipated that litigation from the Springfield Hospital Center and the Division of Correction Central Laundry Facility, along with the growing population will affect Carroll County's judicial workload.

Carroll County has a complement of three judges, as well as one full-time and one part-time master to adjudicate its caseload. During Fiscal Year 1999, an average of 75 days was expended from the filing of a juvenile case to its disposition. During the same period, civil case disposition averaged 140 days.

Cecil County

Cecil County is one of the fastest growing areas on the Eastern Shore with a July 1, 2000 projected population of 85,200 residents. Since the April 1990 Census, Cecil County has experienced an influx of nearly 14,000 residents or a 19.4 percent increase.

An increase of 6.1 percent in total filings has occurred over the last five years, from 4,718 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 5,008 filings. Civil case filings increased approximately 6.3 percent, from 2,586 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,750 in Fiscal Year 1999. Contributing to the reported increase was 48.1 percent rise in general civil filings. Likewise, juvenile filings increased 15.4 percent (i.e., from 678 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 789 in Fiscal Year 1999), fueled by an increase of nearly 26 percent in delinquency filings. There were 293 delinquency cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared with the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 369 filings. Overall, criminal case filings remained relatively consistent over the last five years. Categorically, indictment and information filings increased 29.4 percent, while jury trial prayers decreased 6.7 percent during the same period.

Cecil County's three judges presided over 5,502 hearings during Fiscal Year 1999, ranking third Statewide in hearings per judge and standing master (1,834 hearings). During the same period, Cecil County expended the greatest amount of time on criminal case disposition (184 days). Additionally, an average of 205 days (tenth statewide) was expended on civil case disposition, while juvenile case disposition averaged 70 days (ninth statewide).

Charles County

It is projected that population in Charles County will reach 122,100 by July 1, 2000. That figure represents a 20.7 percent increase since the 1990 Census. Charles County ranked fourteenth statewide in population per judge (30,000 residents).

Charles County has experienced a steady increase in filings over the last five years. Since Fiscal Year 1995, total filings have increased 19.2 percent, from 6,785 to the current level of 8,088 filings. Contributing most significantly to the rise in filings was a 28.2 percent increase in civil case filings. During Fiscal Year 1995, 4,451 civil cases were filed, compared with 5,704 filings during Fiscal Year 1999. A 25.2 percent rise in domestic filings, from 3,496 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 4,377 in Fiscal Year 1999, coupled with a 77 percent increase in general civil filings, from 492 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 871 in Fiscal Year 1999, contributed to the overall increase. Juvenile case filings also increased during the five-year period, from 816 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 969 in Fiscal Year 1999. The reported increase in juvenile filings can be attributed to a 60.2 percent rise in CINA filings (i.e., from 98 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 157 in Fiscal Year 1999) and a 13.8 percent increase in delinquency filings (i.e., from 705 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 802 in Fiscal Year 1999). The only decrease over the last five years occurred in criminal case filings. There were 1,518 criminal cases filed in Fiscal Year 1995, compared with 1,415 in Fiscal Year 1999, a decrease of 6.8 percent. Fueling the reported decrease was a 12.1 percent reduction in indictment and information filings, from 813 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 715 in Fiscal Year 1999.

There are four judges and two standing masters assigned to adjudicate Charles County's increasing caseload. During Fiscal Year 1999, the judges and masters conducted an average of 1,850 hearings each, the second highest statewide. Since Fiscal Year 1995, the number of hearings held increased approximately 33.7 percent from 8,300 to the current total of 11,100 hearings.

During Fiscal Year 1999, Charles County ranked seventh statewide in filings per judge (2,022 filings) and ninth in dispositions per judge (1,797 dispositions). Criminal case disposition averaged 154 days during Fiscal Year 1999, while civil and juvenile case disposition averaged 187 days and 68 days, respectively.

Dorchester County

Dorchester County was the only jurisdiction on the Eastern Shore to experience a reduction in population over the last ten years. The projected July 1, 2000 population of 29,300 residents represents a decrease of 3.1 percent during that period.

While population has decreased, filing activity over the last five years has risen approximately 9 percent, from 1,901 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the Fiscal Year level of 2,072 filings. The reported increase can be attributed to a 23.8 percent rise in civil case filings. There were 1,005 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared with the current level of 1,244 filings. A 98.8 percent increase in general civil filings (i.e., from 81 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 161 in Fiscal Year 1999), coupled with a 24.3 percent rise in domestic-related

filings (i.e., from 802 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 997 in Fiscal Year 1999) contributed to the reported increase. Approximately 60 percent of the total caseload comprised civil cases, of which more than 80 percent involved domestic-related matters. Juvenile and criminal case filings both decreased over the last five years by 5.3 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively. Decreases in delinquency filings and jury trial prayers contributed to the reported reduction in overall juvenile and criminal filings. During the five-year period, the number of hearings conducted increased approximately 14 percent, from 2,571 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,930 hearings in Fiscal Year 1999. During Fiscal Year 1999, Dorchester County ranked fourth in hearings conducted per judge and standing master.

Over the last ten years, Dorchester County has experienced a decrease in judgeships from 1.5 judges, to the current complement of one judge. Dorchester County currently receives the assistance of a part-time standing master. As a one-judge jurisdiction, access to justice in Dorchester County can be affected by vacations, illnesses and other factors beyond the court's control (e.g., longer than expected trials, postponements, etc.). With respect to case disposition, Dorchester County averaged 161 days for criminal case disposition (second statewide) and 76 days for juvenile case disposition (fourth statewide) during Fiscal Year 1999. Additionally, Dorchester County ranked sixth in filings per judge (2,072 filings) and fourth in dispositions per judge (2,050 dispositions).

Frederick County

Frederick County is the fastest growing area in the Western region of Maryland, as well as one of the State's fastest growing areas. By July 1, 2000, Frederick County's population is expected to approximate 194,500 residents. That figure represents a 29.5 percent increase or 44,292 additional residents over the last ten years. During Fiscal Year 1999, Frederick County ranked fifth in population per judge (47,650 residents).

Parallel to the steady rise in population has been a surge in filing activity. Since Fiscal Year 1995, total filings increased 44.3 percent, from 5,356 to the current level of 7,727 total filings. Increases occurred in each functional area, with the greatest increase noted in juvenile case filings. There were 911 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to the current level of 2,534 filings, an increase of 178.2 percent. Categorically, Frederick County has realized an explosion in both delinquency filings (i.e., from 750 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,959 in Fiscal Year 1999) and CINA filings (i.e., from 122 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 453 in Fiscal Year 1999). Not as statistically significant was the 16.9 percent rise in civil case filings (i.e., from 3,027 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,539 in Fiscal Year 1999) and the 16.6 percent increase in criminal filings (i.e., from 1,418 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,654 in Fiscal Year 1999). As with many areas in the State, Frederick County has experienced a steady increase in judicial workload resulting from CDS violations. Within the civil caseload, general civil filings increased 134.9 percent (i.e., from 352 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 827 in Fiscal Year 1999), while domestic filings increased 3.3 percent (i.e., from 2,137 filings in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,207 in Fiscal Year 1999). A 21.9 percent increase

in requests for jury trials from the District Court contributed to the reported rise in criminal case filings.

Since Fiscal Year 1995, hearings conducted in Frederick County have increased 36.4 percent (i.e., from 4,400 to 6,001 in Fiscal Year 1999). The most significant increase was noted in juvenile hearings, from 1,991 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,544 in Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 83 percent.

There are four judges and one part-time standing master assigned to adjudicate Frederick County's increasing caseload. Frederick County ranked tenth statewide in filings per judge (1,932 filings) during Fiscal Year 1999. An average of 232 days was expended on civil case disposition during Fiscal Year 1999 (third statewide), while criminal case disposition averaged 148 days (sixth statewide).

Garrett County

Situated in the western most corner of the State, Garrett County is home to approximately 29,200 residents. That figure represents an increase of nearly four percent over the last ten years.

During the last five years, Garrett County's overall caseload has remained relatively consistent, fluctuating slightly throughout, resulting in a net decrease of 4.3 percent, from 1,152 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 1,103 case filings. Contributing to the

reported decrease was a 39.4 percent reduction in criminal case filings, from 142 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 86 filings. That decrease can be attributed to a 50.6 percent decrease in indictment and information filings (i.e., from 79 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 39 in Fiscal Year 1999). Likewise, civil case filings decreased 10 percent (i.e., from 870 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 783 in Fiscal Year 1999), fueled by a 9 percent decrease in domestic filings (i.e., from 653 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 594 in Fiscal Year 1999). The decreases in civil and criminal filings was mitigated by a 67.1 percent rise in juvenile filings. There were 140 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to the current level of 234 filings. Within the juvenile case type, CINA filings increased 147.8 percent (i.e., from 46 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 114 in Fiscal Year 1999), while delinquency filings increased 19.3 percent (i.e., from 83 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 99 in Fiscal Year 1999).

Garrett County has one resident judge and one part-time standing master who collectively presided over 1,216 hearings during Fiscal Year 1999. That figure represents a 51.2 percent increase over the 804 hearings held during Fiscal Year 1995. During Fiscal Year 1999, Garrett County reported the fifth longest criminal disposition time statewide (150 days).

Harford County

Harford County's projected July 1, 2000 population of 221,200 residents represents a 21.5 percent increase over the April 1990 Census level of 182,132 residents. Harford

County has experienced a steady influx of people, ranking seventh statewide in population per judge (43,580 residents) during Fiscal Year 1999.

Filing activity in Harford County has fluctuated over the last five years with a net increase of approximately 2.2 percent. There were 7,300 cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared with the current level of 7,464 filings. The only increase was noted in civil case filings, from 3,983 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 4,395 in Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 10.3 percent. Categorically, general civil filings increased 109.2 percent (i.e., from 517 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 973 in Fiscal Year 1999), while domestic-related filings increased 4.6 percent (i.e., from 2,679 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,803 in Fiscal Year 1999). During the same period, criminal case filings decreased 9.4 percent, from 2,294 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,078 in Fiscal Year 1999. A 19.2 percent decrease was noted in indictment and information filings (i.e., from 900 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 727 in Fiscal Year 1999), while jury trial prayers decreased 6.6 percent (i.e., from 1,242 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,160 in Fiscal Year 1999). Likewise, juvenile filings decreased from 1,023 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 991 filings, a decrease of 3.1 percent. A 5.9 percent reduction in delinquency filings, from 715 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 673 in Fiscal Year 1999, contributed to the overall decrease.

Harford County's five judges are assisted by one full-time and one part-time master. During the year, a reported 6,036 hearings were conducted. Harford County ranked third in juvenile case disposition (82 days) and ninth in civil case disposition (206 days). In

addition, Harford County averaged 134 days for criminal case disposition (twelfth statewide).

Howard County

Howard County has experienced an influx of nearly 60,000 residents over the last ten years. It is projected that population in this jurisdiction will reach 247,300 by July 1, 2000. During Fiscal Year 1999, Howard County ranked third statewide in population per judge (48,360 residents).

Since Fiscal Year 1995, total filings have decreased slightly, 1.3 percent, from 8,080 to the current level of 7,979 filings. During that period, civil case filings increased more than 15 percent. There were 3,848 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to the Fiscal Year 1999 total of 4,438 filings. Domestic-related filings comprised approximately 59 percent of the civil caseload, increasing 12.5 percent over the last five years, from 2,328 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,619 in Fiscal Year 1999. Throughout the five-year period, delinquency filings continued to account for a great percentage of the juvenile caseload. There were 978 delinquency cases filed during Fiscal Year 1999, comprising nearly 84 percent of all juvenile cases filed. Jury trial prayers and indictment and information filings represented 54.3 percent (1,288 filings) and 35.1 percent (834 filings) of the criminal caseload, respectively during the same period. Howard County ranked fifth in civil case disposition (230 days) and eighth in juvenile case disposition (72 days). An average of 136 days was expended in criminal case disposition (tenth statewide).

Howard County has a complement of five judges and three standing masters tasked with the responsibility of adjudicating its caseload.

Kent County

Maryland's least populated jurisdiction, Kent County, has a projected July 1, 2000 population of 19,100 residents, an increase of 7.1 percent over the last ten years.

Since Fiscal Year 1995, filing activity in Kent County has fluctuated with a net increase of 5.1 percent, from 1,324 to the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 1,391 filings. During the five-year period, civil cases increased 14.2 percent, from 967 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current total of 1,104 filings. Domestic-related filings increased 10.3 percent (i.e., from 832 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 918 in Fiscal Year 1999), while general civil filings rose 58.2 percent (i.e., from 67 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 106 in Fiscal Year 1999). A 21.2 percent decrease in delinquency filings, coupled with a 68 percent decrease in CINA filings contributed to a 27.2 percent decrease in total juvenile case filings. Likewise, a reduction of 17 percent was noted in criminal case filings, from 265 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 220 in Fiscal Year 1999. Contributing to that decrease was a 38.8 percent decline in the filing of requests for jury trials from the District Court.

Kent County's single judge is assisted by a part-time standing master. During Fiscal Year 1999, there were 1,839 hearings conducted. Kent County ranked ninth statewide in hearings held per judge and standing master (1,533 hearings). An average of 198 days

was expended in civil case disposition, while juvenile case disposition averaged 52 days. Kent County ranked seventh in criminal case disposition (141 days).

Montgomery County

The most populous jurisdiction in the State with a projected July 1, 2000 population of 855,300 residents is Montgomery County. That figure represents an increase of approximately 13 percent or more than 98,000 inhabitants over the last ten years. Montgomery County ranked second statewide in population per judge (49,888 residents)

Since Fiscal Year 1995, total filings increased approximately 14.5 percent, from 26,157 to the current total of 29,960 filings. During that same period, domestic-related filings increased 24 percent, from 8,451 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 10,480 in Fiscal Year 1999. The number of civil hearings conducted also increased during the five-year period. There were 17,146 civil hearings held during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to 18,823 during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of nearly 10 percent. Montgomery County ranked twelfth statewide in hearings per judge and standing master (1,389 hearings). During Fiscal Year 1999, Montgomery County reported the shortest average time for criminal case disposition (85 days) and the second shortest time for civil case disposition (153 days).

There are seventeen judges assigned to Montgomery County, supplemented by the assistance of four standing masters. With the impending implementation of the new master policy, the calendar assignments of judges, particularly family division judges, will

be greatly impacted. Masters will no longer be able to hear certain proceedings, which will result in an increased workload for judges. Effective management of domestic-related cases, which by their nature are often time consuming and complex, will become increasingly important.

Prince George's County

Located in the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland, Prince George's County is one of the most populated areas in the State. The July 1, 2000 population projection of 789,400 residents represents an increase of approximately 8.2 percent over the 1990 Census. Population per judge during Fiscal Year 1999 was 34,070, ranking eleventh statewide.

Total filings increased slightly over the last five years, from 44,664 during Fiscal Year 1995, to the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 44,946 filings. Civil filings comprised nearly 64 percent (28,625 filings) of the total caseload with approximately 59.2 percent (16,942 filings) of the civil cases involving domestic matters. Criminal cases accounted for 23.6 percent of the total filings. Since Fiscal Year 1995, criminal case filings rose 38.8 percent, from 7,642 to the current level of 10,606 filings. A 104.8 percent increase in jury trial prayers (i.e., from 2,652 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 5,430 in Fiscal Year 1999) contributed significantly to the reported increase. Delinquency filings continue to comprise a large percentage of the juvenile caseload, 65.7 percent (3,754 filings).

Prince George's County has a complement of twenty-three judges and six standing masters. During Fiscal Year 1999, Prince George's County ranked ninth statewide in filings per judge (1,954 filings) and eleventh in dispositions per judge (1,679 dispositions). Additionally, Prince George's County ranked fourth in civil case disposition (232 days) and sixth in the number of hearings conducted per judge and standing master (1,646 hearings).

Queen Anne's County

Queen Anne's County's population is projected to approximate 41,200 residents by July 1, 2000, representing an influx of more than 7,000 residents or 21.3 percent over the last ten years. During Fiscal Year 1999, Queen Anne's County ranked eighth statewide in population per judge (40,400 residents).

Since Fiscal Year 1995, Queen Anne's County has experienced a 36.9 percent increase in total filings, from 1,357 to the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 1,858 filings. Increases in both civil and juvenile filings contributed to the overall increase. There were 1,377 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 43.6 percent over the 959 cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995. The reported increase can be attributed to a 63.8 percent rise in domestic-related filings (i.e., from 567 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 929 in Fiscal Year 1999). Likewise, juvenile filings increased 42.3 percent, from 227 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 323 filings. Increases were noted in both delinquency (i.e., from 212 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 255 in Fiscal Year 1999) and CINA (i.e., from nine in Fiscal Year 1995, to 50 in Fiscal Year 1999) filings. A 23.1 percent reduction in jury trial prayers

contributed to the 7.6 percent decrease noted in criminal case filings over the last five years (i.e., from 171 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 158 in Fiscal Year 1999).

Queen Anne's County has one judge assigned to adjudicate its growing caseload. During Fiscal Year 1999, this jurisdiction ranked seventh statewide in hearings conducted per judge and standing master (1,639 hearings).

St. Mary's County

Located on the southern tip of Maryland, St. Mary's County's population is projected to approach 90,900 residents by July 1, 2000. That figure represents an increase of 19.6 percent over the 1990 level of 75,974 residents.

In addition to experiencing an increase in population, St. Mary's County also has realized an escalation in filing activity. There were 4,556 total cases filed during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 11.2 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 4,097 filings. Increases were noted in both civil and juvenile case filings. There was a 24.4 percent increase in civil case filings, from 2,577 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,205 in Fiscal Year 1999. Contributing to that increase was a 29 percent rise in domestic-related filings, from 1,977 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current total of 2,550 filings. Likewise, juvenile case filings increased 43.2 percent, from 495 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 709 in Fiscal Year 1999. Delinquency filings rose 49.6 percent over the last five years (i.e., from 387 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 579 in Fiscal Year 1999). The only decrease occurred in criminal case filings.

There were 642 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1999, a decrease of 37.4 percent from the 1,025 cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995. Indictment and information filings decreased 39.1 percent (i.e., from 379 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 231 in Fiscal Year 1999), while jury trial prayers decreased 36.1 percent (i.e., from 617 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 394 in Fiscal Year 1999), contributing to the reported decrease in criminal filings.

During Fiscal Year 1999, St. Mary's County conducted 5,321 hearings, an increase of 22.9 percent over the 4,328 hearings conducted during Fiscal Year 1995. St. Mary's County has three judges and one full-time standing master.

Somerset County

Somerset County has a projected July 1, 2000 population of 24,600 residents, an increase of 4.9 percent over the last ten years.

Over the last five years, total filings in Somerset County increased 7.6 percent, from 2,051 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 2,207 filings. During that same period, civil filings increased 5.8 percent (i.e., from 1,303 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,378 in Fiscal Year 1999), while juvenile case filings rose 43.2 percent (i.e., from 220 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 315 in Fiscal Year 1999), contributing to the overall increase. Domestic case filings increased 3.6 percent, from 1,074 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,113 in Fiscal Year 1999. Likewise, a 69.6 percent increase in delinquency filings (i.e., from 102 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 173 in Fiscal Year 1999) contributed to the reported increase in overall juvenile filings.

Somerset County's civil docket has been impacted by increased litigation from inmates in the Eastern Correctional Institution. Criminal filings were consistent over the last five years (i.e., from 528 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 514 in Fiscal Year 1999).

There is one judge and one part-time standing master assigned to Somerset County. During Fiscal Year 1999, Somerset County ranked eighth in hearings conducted per judge and standing master (1,586 hearings). In addition, Somerset County ranked third in filings per judge (2,207 filings) and second in dispositions per judge (2,172 dispositions). At the present rate, Somerset County will require additional judicial assistance to effectively manage its caseload.

Talbot County

Talbot County is in the Second Judicial Circuit of Maryland. Its projected July 1, 2000 population of 33,500 residents represents an increase of 9.7 percent over the 1990 Census level of 30,549 residents.

Since Fiscal Year 1995, total filings in Talbot County have increased 9 percent, from 1,810 to the current total of 1,973 filings. Civil and juvenile filings both increased during the five-year period. There were 1,224 civil filings reported during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 12 percent over the 1,093 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1995. Domestic-related filings increased nearly 15 percent over the last five years (i.e., from 807 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 925 in Fiscal Year 1999). The civil caseload was comprised primarily of

domestic-related matters (75.6 percent) during Fiscal Year 1999. Likewise, domestic-related filings accounted for approximately 46.9 percent of the total cases reported. Juvenile case filings have increased 15.7 percent since Fiscal Year 1995, from 300 to the Fiscal Year 1999 total of 347 filings. The reported increase can be attributed to a 17.3 percent rise in delinquency filings (i.e., from 226 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 265 in Fiscal Year 1999). A 16.7 percent decrease in indictment and information filings (i.e., from 245 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 204 in Fiscal Year 1999), mitigated by a 17.1 percent increase in jury trial prayers (i.e., from 105 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 123 in Fiscal Year 1999) contributed to the 3.6 percent reduction in total criminal filings over the last five years. There were 417 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared with the Fiscal Year 1999 total of 402 filings.

The one judge assigned to Talbot County has the assistance of a part-time standing master. There were 1,679 hearings conducted in Talbot County during Fiscal Year 1999. Talbot County ranked eighth in both filings (1,973 filings) and dispositions (1,883 dispositions) per judge during Fiscal Year 1999. In disposing its caseload, an average of 201 days was expended in civil case disposition, 130 days in criminal case disposition and 22 days in juvenile case disposition.

Washington County

Washington County is expected to be home to approximately 127,800 residents by July 1, 2000. Since the 1990 Census, population has increased 5.3 percent. During Fiscal

Year 1999, Washington County ranked thirteenth in population per judge (31,900 residents).

Washington County has experienced a steadily increasing caseload over the last five years. Since Fiscal Year 1995, total filings have increased approximately 35.7 percent, from 6,374 to the Fiscal Year 1999 level of 8,647 filings. Increases were noted in each functional area with the greatest increase occurring in civil case filings. There were 3,515 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to the current level of 5,064 filings, an increase of 44.1 percent. Propelling the reported increase was a 51.4 percent rise in domestic-related filings, from 2,562 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 3,880 in Fiscal Year 1999. Juvenile case filings followed, increasing 39.3 percent, from 778 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 1,084 filings. Categorically, CINA filings increased 65.8 percent (i.e., from 351 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 587 in Fiscal Year 1999), while delinquency filings rose 9.1 percent (i.e., from 406 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 443 in Fiscal Year 1999). Criminal filing activity rose 20.1 percent during the last five years. There were 2,081 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to 2,499 filings during Fiscal Year 1999. Fueling the increase was a 31.6 percent rise in indictment and information filings, from 594 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 782 in Fiscal Year 1999. Cases arising from CDS violations has saturated the criminal docket over the past several years. Washington County has been identified by law enforcement officials as a distribution point for drug activity.

During the five-year period, an increase in hearings has been noted as well. There were 6,896 hearings conducted during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 25.9 percent over the 5,479 hearings conducted during Fiscal Year 1995. An average of 1,379 hearings were conducted per judge and standing master during Fiscal Year 1999, ranking thirteenth statewide. Additionally, Washington County ranked fourth in filings per judge (2,162 filings) and third in dispositions per judge (2,163 dispositions). Despite the steadily increasing caseload, Washington County has managed to dispose its caseload expeditiously. An average of 177 days was expended on civil case disposition (nineteenth), 120 days on criminal case disposition (sixteenth) and 65 days on juvenile case disposition (thirteenth).

There are four judges and one standing master assigned to adjudicate Washington County's increasing caseload.

Wicomico County

Wicomico County is located in the First Judicial Circuit of Maryland. It is projected that its population will approximate 80,100 by July 1, 2000. That figure represents an increase of 7.7 percent over the 1990 total of 74,339 residents.

Wicomico County has experienced an increase of 24.6 percent in total filings since Fiscal Year 1995. There were 3,924 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1995, compared to the Fiscal Year 1999 total of 4,891 filings. Increases were noted in each functional area with the greatest numerical increase occurring in criminal filings. There were 2,008 criminal

cases filed during Fiscal Year 1999, an increase of 38.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 1995 level of 1,451 filings. Juvenile filings followed, increasing 55.4 percent, from 332 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 516 in Fiscal Year 1999. A 10.6 percent rise in civil case filings was reported during the same period (i.e., from 2,141 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,367 in Fiscal Year 1999). Contributing to the overall increase in filings was a 56.8 percent rise in jury trial prayers (i.e., from 680 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,066 in Fiscal Year 1999) and a 32.9 percent increase in delinquency filings (i.e., from 277 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 368 in Fiscal Year 1999). Also increasing were indictment and information filings (14.1 percent), domestic-related filings (6.3 percent) and CINA filings (154.7 percent).

Wicomico County's caseload is adjudicated by its three judges who receive assistance from a part-time master. During Fiscal Year 1999, Wicomico County filed 1,630 filings per judge, while disposing 1,439 cases per judge. Additionally, approximately 1,259 hearings were conducted per judge and standing master. With respect to case disposition time, civil cases averaged 180 days, while criminal and juvenile cases averaged 106 days and 51 days, respectively.

Worcester County

Worcester County is the fastest growing subdivision on the Eastern Shore with a projected July 1, 2000 population of 44,600 residents, an increase of more than 27 percent since the 1990 Census.

Since Fiscal Year 1995, total filings in Worcester County have increased approximately 17.8 percent, from 3,203 to the Fiscal Year 1999 total of 3,772 filings. Civil and criminal filings both increased during the five-year period, contributing to the overall increase. A 19.3 percent increase was reported in civil filings, from 1,826 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 2,179 in Fiscal Year 1999. Contributing to the increase was an 18.8 percent rise in domestic-related filings (i.e., from 1,008 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 1,197 in Fiscal Year 1999). Criminal case filings rose 26.6 percent during the same period, from 1,008 in Fiscal Year 1995, to the current level of 1,276 filings. Fueling the reported increase was a 33.8 percent rise in jury trial prayers emanating from the District Court (i.e., from 705 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 943 in Fiscal Year 1999), coupled with a 10.5 percent increase in indictment and information filings (i.e., from 247 in Fiscal Year 1995, to 273 in Fiscal Year 1999). A 16.5 percent reduction in delinquency filings contributed to the reported 14.1 percent decrease in total juvenile filings.

The two judges and one part-time standing master assigned to Worcester County presided over 2,366 hearings during Fiscal Year 1999. Over the last five years, hearings increased 45.5 percent, from 1,626 in Fiscal Year 1995. Worcester County ranked eleventh statewide in filings per judge during Fiscal Year 1999 (1,886 filings).

EXHIBIT A-2

STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORTING
NEED FOR ADDITIONAL
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGESHIPS

TABLE 1
STATEWIDE CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS BY CASE TYPE
FISCAL YEARS 1988 THROUGH 1999

Case Type	FY 88 Filings (% of Change)	FY 89 Filings (% of Change)	FY 90 Filings (% of Change)	FY 91 Filings (% of Change)	FY 92 Filings (% of Change)	FY 93 Filings (% of Change)	FY 94 Filings (% of Change)	FY 95 Filings (% of Change)	FY 96 Filings (% of Change)	FY 97 Filings (% of Change)	FY 98 Filings (% of Change)	FY 99 Filings (% of Change)
Civil	112,645 6.08%	116,009 2.99%	128,893 11.11%	137,077 6.35%	149,229 8.87%	158,185 6.00%	157,005 -0.75%	147,784 -5.87%	157,743 6.74%	157,899 0.10%	160,174 1.44%	167,265 4.43%
Criminal	57,923 4.84%	61,330 5.88%	60,428 -1.47%	69,451 14.93%	74,062 6.64%	69,836 -5.71%	68,927 -1.30%	68,672 -0.37%	69,753 1.57%	69,121 -0.91%	71,770 3.83%	72,123 0.49%
Juvenile*	32,806 1.13%	33,629 2.51%	36,598 8.83%	32,716 -10.61%	33,360 1.97%	37,660 12.89%	38,694 2.75%	38,252 -1.14%	33,988 -11.15%	36,801 8.28%	38,093 3.51%	39,081 2.59%
Total	203,374 4.90%	211,058 3.78%	225,919 7.04%	239,244 5.90%	256,651 7.28%	265,681 3.52%	264,626 -0.40%	254,708 -3.75%	261,484 2.66%	263,821 0.89%	270,037 2.36%	278,469 3.12%

*Excludes juvenile causes in Montgomery County which is the jurisdiction of the District Court.

TABLE 2

Exhibit A-2

**PROJECTIONS OF CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS FOR
EACH JURISDICTION IN MARYLAND THROUGH 2001**

Circuit/Jurisdiction	Projected ^a										
	FY 1991	FY 1992	FY 1993	FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
First Circuit	9,190	10,882	11,296	11,096	11,079	12,004	12,515	13,312	12,942	13,728	14,155
Barnstable	1,674	2,218	2,068	2,044	1,901	1,928	1,881	2,396	2,072	2,157	2,184
Barnstable	1,579	1,784	2,046	2,026	2,051	2,175	2,314	2,248	2,207	2,430	2,507
Barnstable	3,577	3,854	3,986	3,936	3,924	4,532	4,935	4,778	4,891	5,145	5,320
Barnstable	2,360	3,026	3,196	3,090	3,203	3,369	3,385	3,890	3,772	3,996	4,143
Second Circuit	9,721	10,442	10,013	10,041	10,750	11,400	11,331	11,750	11,930	12,053	12,266
Barnstable	1,401	1,325	1,440	1,302	1,541	1,678	1,562	1,692	1,700	1,763	1,745
Barnstable	4,001	4,633	4,413	4,328	4,713	4,982	4,915	4,748	5,008	4,978	5,012
Barnstable	966	1,437	1,171	1,392	1,324	1,432	1,548	1,463	1,391	1,561	1,604
Barnstable	1,648	1,342	1,388	1,351	1,357	1,686	1,715	1,918	1,858	1,882	1,942
Barnstable	1,705	1,705	1,601	1,668	1,810	1,622	1,785	1,929	1,973	1,929	1,963
Third Circuit	31,995	33,492	32,815	33,537	34,110	34,895	35,491	35,632	35,943	36,622	37,105
Barnstable	25,384	25,736	25,455	26,500	26,810	27,952	27,800	28,055	28,479	29,031	29,456
Barnstable	6,611	7,756	7,360	7,037	7,300	6,943	7,691	7,577	7,464	7,591	7,649
Fourth Circuit	8,645	9,350	9,099	10,544	10,206	11,263	11,717	13,396	13,190	13,846	14,451
Barnstable	2,366	2,576	2,795	3,224	2,680	3,230	3,452	3,826	3,440	3,846	4,002
Barnstable	1,090	1,131	1,099	1,150	1,152	1,168	1,101	1,217	1,103	1,162	1,168
Barnstable	5,189	5,643	5,205	6,170	6,374	6,865	7,164	8,353	8,647	8,878	9,281
Fifth Circuit	38,995	40,074	39,866	39,671	38,276	38,146	35,092	34,440	34,734	33,947	33,198
Barnstable	26,633	26,798	26,250	26,362	24,053	23,662	21,185	20,274	21,405	19,625	18,738
Barnstable	4,978	5,581	6,236	6,296	6,143	5,937	5,567	5,896	5,350	5,837	5,850
Barnstable	7,384	7,695	7,380	7,013	8,080	8,547	8,340	8,270	7,979	8,484	8,610
Sixth Circuit	30,577	38,959	43,480	40,246	31,513	33,753	35,338	35,208	37,687	37,533	38,547
Barnstable	5,281	5,289	5,155	5,219	5,356	5,749	6,371	6,828	7,727	6,845	7,061
Barnstable ^b	25,296	33,670	38,325	35,027	26,157	28,004	28,967	28,380	29,960	30,688	31,486
Seventh Circuit	50,728	52,777	51,999	55,213	59,298	60,081	61,192	61,651	62,067	62,974	63,690
Barnstable	2,868	2,904	2,807	2,801	3,752	4,450	4,598	4,686	4,477	4,898	5,067
Barnstable	4,934	5,539	5,456	5,712	6,785	6,902	7,340	7,644	8,088	8,356	8,691
Barnstable	39,037	40,082	39,748	42,721	44,664	44,024	44,161	44,239	44,946	44,641	44,718
Barnstable	3,889	4,252	3,988	3,979	4,097	4,705	5,093	5,082	4,556	5,079	5,214
Eighth Circuit	59,393	60,675	67,113	64,278	59,476	59,942	61,145	64,648	69,976	66,126	66,759
Barnstable	59,393	60,675	67,113	64,278	59,476	59,942	61,145	64,648	69,976	66,126	66,759
STATEWIDE	239,244	256,651	265,681	264,626	254,708	261,484	263,821	270,037	278,469	276,829	280,171

^a For Years 2000 and 2001, projections are based on a linear regression method of forecasting utilizing data from Fiscal Year 1991 through Fiscal Year 1999. In some instances, data may be deleted because it may skew projections.

^b Includes juvenile cases heard in Montgomery County.

**FILING TO DISPOSITION OF CASES TERMINATED
IN FISCAL 1996, 1997, 1998 AND 1999**

	All Criminal Cases				Excluding Cases Over 360 Days*			
	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First Circuit								
Dorchester	157	139	145	173	139	125	131	161
Somerset	107	114	99	116	90	93	93	108
Wicomico	113	106	113	113	107	101	105	106
Worcester	87	81	97	117	83	80	95	108
Second Circuit								
Caroline	170	161	167	166	154	157	154	157
Cecil	188	210	204	228	177	179	180	184
Kent	148	139	159	177	131	139	154	141
Queen Anne's	133	142	141	119	131	135	101	105
Talbot	130	120	120	133	130	118	115	130
Third Circuit								
Baltimore	134	106	117	125	81	94	100	107
Harford	219	219	191	198	137	131	126	134
Fourth Circuit								
Allegany	177	204	180	146	164	167	162	136
Garrett	134	172	183	162	129	158	156	150
Washington	159	154	137	132	124	137	118	120
Fifth Circuit								
Anne Arundel	166	151	168	156	135	121	128	135
Carroll	152	164	163	153	132	139	146	140
Howard	205	264	185	187	144	130	134	136
Sixth Circuit								
Frederick	190	182	168	172	161	152	139	148
Montgomery	110	111	114	103	94	90	92	85
Seventh Circuit								
Calvert	125	134	166	170	122	116	136	128
Charles	180	177	158	180	164	153	139	154
Prince George's	142	152	134	134	114	127	109	113
St. Mary's	163	142	204	179	131	126	124	108
Eighth Circuit								
Baltimore City	145	145	158	179	112	110	109	122
Statewide	147	150	149	157	116	117	114	121

*This column provides a more accurate estimate of average case time by excluding older cases which may have failed to be reported statistically as closed.

**FILING TO DISPOSITION OF CASES TERMINATED
IN FISCAL 1996, 1997, 1998 AND 1999**

	All Civil Cases				Excluding Cases Over 721 Days*			
	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First Circuit								
Dorchester	237	260	237	280	185	190	190	182
Somerset	173	141	147	154	125	115	113	132
Wicomico	220	175	395	232	157	140	174	180
Worcester	198	306	216	239	164	192	178	164
Second Circuit								
Caroline	340	419	371	258	186	172	184	164
Cecil	278	233	295	242	176	172	191	205
Kent	216	230	209	235	171	192	191	198
Queen Anne's	194	177	169	176	169	166	164	154
Talbot	212	213	214	246	177	173	187	201
Third Circuit								
Baltimore	258	266	514	476	184	197	206	222
Harford	244	256	363	491	162	155	228	206
Fourth Circuit								
Allegany	291	267	183	193	237	226	171	184
Garrett	218	228	260	229	183	190	198	186
Washington	233	216	198	275	161	154	151	177
Fifth Circuit								
Anne Arundel	353	445	358	372	227	238	247	246
Carroll	258	262	256	303	176	182	188	211
Howard	314	297	305	319	235	220	237	230
Sixth Circuit								
Frederick	263	422	426	292	170	229	210	232
Montgomery	155	212	116	159	114	177	103	153
Seventh Circuit								
Calvert	300	254	240	364	224	200	204	222
Charles	367	250	271	286	177	181	192	187
Prince George's	349	341	340	325	199	225	248	232
St. Mary's	450	259	232	308	209	196	186	196
Eighth Circuit								
Baltimore City	508	577	721	473	262	272	282	276
Statewide	284	308	338	338	180	202	209	214

* This column provides a more accurate estimate of average case time by excluding older cases which may have failed to be reported statistically as closed.

TABLE 3 (CONT'D.)
FILING TO DISPOSITION OF CASES TERMINATED
IN FISCAL 1996, 1997, 1998 AND 1999

Exhibit A-2

	All Juvenile Cases				Excluding Cases Over 271 Days*			
	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
First Circuit								
Dorchester	47	82	65	79	47	53	65	76
Somerset	16	47	28	17	16	19	25	17
Wicomico	70	46	85	71	40	45	49	51
Worcester	47	51	77	90	45	49	62	46
Second Circuit								
Caroline	288	16	77	21	15	16	24	21
Cecil	107	250	105	96	74	68	69	70
Kent	56	57	77	82	56	57	67	52
Queen Anne's	55	53	48	85	55	53	48	57
Talbot	130	56	20	22	74	56	20	22
Third Circuit								
Baltimore	82	70	87	115	62	64	78	74
Harford	101	83	92	86	90	80	81	82
Fourth Circuit								
Allegany	72	97	70	74	66	79	65	70
Garrett	59	45	54	57	47	45	49	47
Washington	70	78	74	102	56	64	64	65
Fifth Circuit								
Anne Arundel	94	74	83	72	69	66	66	63
Carroll	90	96	90	99	78	74	70	75
Howard	105	144	104	127	74	74	78	72
Sixth Circuit								
Frederick	90	79	62	60	86	73	59	58
Montgomery	125	156	142	151	98	94	94	101
Seventh Circuit								
Calvert	119	143	91	96	100	74	82	73
Charles	78	76	77	84	77	75	74	68
Prince George's	122	84	105	124	71	67	67	64
St. Mary's	204	303	71	80	78	77	69	69
Eighth Circuit								
Baltimore City**	25	19	26	201	11	11	9	84
Statewide	84	79	75	130	59	53	55	75

*This column provides a more accurate estimate of average case time by excluding older cases which may have failed to be reported statistically as closed.

**Baltimore City experienced a reporting problem with juvenile elapsed time, however, the problem has now been corrected.

**MARYLAND POPULATION CHANGE BETWEEN 1980 AND 1990 CENSUS
AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS THROUGH JULY 1, 2000**

Circuit/Jurisdiction	Actual Population		Actual Annual Rate of Change %	Population Projections		Projected Annual Rate of Change
	April 1, 1980	April 1, 1990		July 1, 1990	July 1, 2000	
First Circuit	145,240	163,043	1.23	163,590	178,600	0.92
Dorchester	30,623	30,236	-0.13	30,260	29,300	-0.32
Somerset	19,188	23,440	2.22	23,530	24,600	0.45
Wicomico	64,540	74,339	1.52	74,610	80,100	0.74
Worcester	30,889	35,023	1.34	35,190	44,600	2.67
Second Circuit	151,380	180,726	1.94	181,390	209,000	1.52
Caroline	23,143	27,035	1.68	27,120	30,000	1.06
Cecil	60,430	71,347	1.81	71,590	85,200	1.90
Kent	16,695	17,842	0.69	17,840	19,100	0.71
Queen Anne's	25,508	33,957	3.31	34,170	41,200	2.06
Talbot	25,604	30,349	1.93	30,670	33,500	0.92
Third Circuit	801,545	874,266	0.91	876,050	947,000	0.81
Baltimore	655,615	692,114	0.56	693,030	725,800	0.47
Harford	145,930	182,112	2.48	183,020	221,200	2.09
Fourth Circuit	221,132	224,477	0.15	224,540	227,100	0.12
Allegany	80,548	74,945	-0.70	74,780	70,100	-0.63
Garrett	27,498	28,138	0.23	28,160	29,200	0.37
Washington	113,086	121,393	0.73	121,600	127,800	0.51
Fifth Circuit	585,703	737,939	2.60	741,770	889,900	2.00
Anne Arundel	370,775	427,239	1.52	428,640	486,400	1.35
Carroll	96,356	123,372	2.80	124,060	156,200	2.59
Howard	118,572	187,323	5.80	189,070	247,300	3.08
Sixth Circuit	693,845	907,235	3.08	912,640	1,049,800	1.50
Frederick	114,792	150,208	3.09	151,140	194,500	2.87
Montgomery	579,053	757,027	3.07	761,500	855,300	1.23
Seventh Circuit	832,355	957,768	1.51	960,870	1,079,100	1.23
Calvert	34,638	51,372	4.83	51,780	76,700	4.81
Charles	72,751	101,134	3.90	101,850	122,100	1.99
Prince George's	665,071	729,268	0.97	730,850	789,400	0.80
St. Mary's	59,895	75,974	2.68	76,390	90,900	1.90
Eighth Circuit	786,775	736,014	-0.65	734,750	619,600	-1.57
Baltimore City	786,775	736,014	-0.65	734,750	619,600	-1.57
Statewide	4,217,975	4,781,468	1.34	4,795,600	5,200,100	0.84

SOURCES: Bureau of the Census, and Maryland Population Report July 1, 1997, and Projections to 2002, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Health Statistics.

Change in population from one year to the next is dependent upon two factors -- natural increase and net migration. Natural increase is the excess of births over deaths. Net migration is the difference between the number of people moving into an area and the number moving out. For further information, see source documents above.

TABLE 5

Exhibit A-2

**CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE HEARINGS
FISCAL YEAR 1999**

Jurisdiction	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Total	Hearings Conducted Per Judge and Standing Master
First Circuit					
Dorchester County	949	1,660	321	2,930	1,831 (4)
Somerset County	1,217	683	321	2,221	1,586 (8)
Wicomico County	933	3,125	854	4,912	1,259 (17)
Worcester County	1,141	850	375	2,366	946 (21)
Second Circuit					
Caroline County	1,289	560	334	2,183	1,819 (5)
Cecil County	851	3,169	1,482	5,502	1,834 (3)
Kent County	1,180	496	163	1,839	1,533 (9)
Queen Anne's County	1,008	242	389	1,639	1,639 (7)
Talbot County	900	445	334	1,679	1,199 (18)
Third Circuit					
Baltimore County	8,932	7,041	4,174	20,147	959 (20)
Harford County	1,064	4,013	959	6,036	915 (22)
Fourth Circuit					
Allegany County	1,147	1,251	304	2,702	1,126 (19)
Garrett County	639	93	484	1,216	869 (23)
Washington County	1,858	3,751	1,287	6,896	1,379 (13)
Fifth Circuit					
Anne Arundel County	8,650	8,504	5,021	22,175	1,478 (11)
Carroll County	2,732	2,542	1,539	6,813	1,514 (10)
Howard County	1,150	2,264	2,391	5,805	726 (24)
Sixth Circuit					
Frederick County	968	1,389	3,644	6,001	1,364 (14)
Montgomery County	18,823	10,347	*	29,170	1,389 (12)
Seventh Circuit					
Calvert County	2,630	2,089	1,359	6,078	2,026 (1)
Charles County	6,101	3,113	1,886	11,100	1,850 (2)
Prince George's County	21,643	15,880	10,201	47,724	1,646 (6)
St. Mary's County	2,513	1,131	1,677	5,321	1,330 (15)
Eighth Circuit					
Baltimore City	5,106	15,983	35,656	56,745	1,290 (16)
Total - Statewide	93,424	90,621	75,155	259,200	1,346

*Excludes Juvenile hearings in Montgomery County.

TABLE 6

Exhibit A-2

**COMPARATIVE WORKLOAD MEASURES PER CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
(FISCAL YEAR 1999)**

Jurisdiction (Number of Judges)^a	(1) Filings Per Judge (Rank)	(2) Pending Cases Per Judge (Rank)	(3) Dispositions Per Judge (Rank)	(4) Population Per Judge (Rank)	(5) Attorney/Judge^c Ratio (Rank)
First Circuit					
Dorchester (1)	2,072 (6)	1,172 (13)	2,050 (4)	29,400 (17)	30 (19)
Somerset (1)	2,207 (3)	1,090 (15)	2,172 (2)	24,400 (21)	14 (24)
Wicomico (3)	1,630 (19)	932 (17)	1,439 (18)	26,567 (20)	48 (14)
Worcester (2)	1,886 (11)	1,625 (10)	1,497 (16)	21,850 (22)	50 (12)
Second Circuit					
Caroline (1)	1,700 (17)	1,458 (11)	1,334 (21)	29,800 (15)	25 (23)
Cecil (3)	1,669 (18)	1,382 (12)	1,493 (17)	27,933 (19)	26 (22)
Kent (1)	1,391 (23)	674 (23)	1,280 (23)	19,000 (24)	34 (17)
Queen Anne's (1)	1,858 (12)	498 (24)	1,895 (6)	40,400 (8)	84 (8)
Talbot (1)	1,973 (8)	769 (20)	1,883 (8)	33,300 (12)	13 (26)
Third Circuit					
Baltimore (16)	1,780 (14)	3,099 (3)	1,655 (13)	45,244 (6)	177 (3)
Harford (5)	1,493 (22)	1,823 (6)	1,320 (22)	43,580 (7)	75 (20)
Fourth Circuit					
Allegany (2)	1,720 (16)	836 (19)	1,677 (12)	35,350 (10)	42 (15)
Garrett (1)	1,103 (24)	744 (22)	907 (24)	29,200 (18)	30 (20)
Washington (4)	2,162 (4)	1,136 (14)	2,163 (3)	31,900 (13)	31 (18)
Fifth Circuit					
Anne Arundel (10)	2,141 (5)	3,136 (2)	1,980 (5)	48,120 (4)	151 (5)
Carroll (3)	1,783 (13)	1,652 (8)	1,738 (10)	50,967 (1)	91 (7)
Howard (5)	1,596 (20)	1,626 (9)	1,422 (19)	48,360 (3)	232 (2)
Sixth Circuit					
Frederick (4)	1,932 (10)	2,348 (4)	1,409 (20)	47,650 (5)	78 (9)
Montgomery ^d (17)	1,762 (15)	915 (18)	1,598 (14)	49,888 (2)	324 (1)
Seventh Circuit					
Calvert (2)	2,239 (2)	1,059 (16)	2,214 (1)	37,150 (9)	49 (13)
Charles (4)	2,022 (7)	1,800 (7)	1,797 (9)	30,000 (14)	35 (16)
Prince George's (23)	1,954 (9)	2,280 (5)	1,679 (11)	34,070 (11)	75 (11)
St. Mary's (3)	1,519 (21)	762 (21)	1,531 (15)	29,767 (16)	27 (21)
Eighth Circuit					
Baltimore City (30)	2,333 (1)	6,835 (1)	1,884 (7)	21,090 (23)	160 (4)
Statewide (143)	1.947	2.937	1.711	36,135	138

^aThe number of judges used in developing the rankings in this chart is based on the number authorized in Fiscal Year 2000 (143 statewide).

^bPopulation estimate for July 1, 1999, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

^cAttorney statistics obtained from the Administrator of the Clients' Security Trust Fund as of September 30, 1999. Out-of-state attorneys are not included in these ratios.

^dExcludes juvenile cases in Montgomery County which is the jurisdiction of the District Court.

TABLE 7

COMPARED RANKING OF VARIOUS FACTORS AFFECTING JUDGESHIP ALLOCATION

	Ranking of Predictive Factors				Ranking of Performance Factors (Inverted Ranking Used ^a to Show Longest Times)		
	Filings	Population	Pending Cases	Attorneys	Time: Civil	Time: Criminal	Time: Juvenile
First Circuit							
Dorchester	6	17	13	18	182 (17)	161 (2)	76 (4)
Somerset	3	21	15	24	132 (24)	108 (18)	17 (24)
Wicomico	19	20	17	14	180 (18)	196 (22)	51 (19)
Worcester	11	22	10	12	164 (20)	178 (19)	46 (21)
Second Circuit							
Caroline	17	15	11	23	164 (21)	157 (3)	21 (23)
Cecil	18	19	12	22	205 (10)	184 (1)	70 (9)
Kent	23	24	23	17	198 (12)	141 (7)	52 (18)
Queen Anne's	12	8	24	8	154 (22)	105 (23)	57 (17)
Talbot	8	12	20	6	201 (11)	130 (13)	22 (22)
Third Circuit							
Baltimore	14	6	3	3	222 (6)	107 (21)	74 (6)
Harford	22	7	6	10	206 (9)	134 (12)	82 (3)
Fourth Circuit							
Allegany	16	10	19	15	184 (16)	136 (9)	70 (10)
Garrett	24	18	22	20	186 (15)	153 (5)	47 (20)
Washington	4	13	14	18	177 (19)	129 (16)	65 (13)
Fifth Circuit							
Anne Arundel	5	4	2	5	246 (2)	135 (11)	63 (15)
Carroll	13	1	8	7	211 (8)	143 (8)	75 (5)
Howard	20	3	9	2	230 (5)	136 (10)	72 (8)
Sixth Circuit							
Frederick	10	5	4	9	232 (3)	148 (6)	58 (16)
Montgomery	15	2	18	1	153 (23)	85 (24)	191 (1)
Seventh Circuit							
Calvert	2	9	16	13	222 (7)	128 (14)	73 (7)
Charles	7	14	7	16	187 (14)	154 (4)	68 (12)
Prince George's	9	11	5	11	232 (4)	113 (17)	64 (14)
St. Mary's	21	16	21	21	196 (13)	108 (20)	69 (11)
Eighth Circuit							
Baltimore City	1	23	1	4	276 (1)	122 (15)	84 (2)

^aLower number indicates greater need for judgeship. For example, a number one ranking of a predictive factor would indicate a higher amount of volume, whereas, a number one ranking of a performance factor would indicate a slower ability to handle workload.

**COLLECTIVE RANKING OF JURISDICTIONS
BY BOTH PREDICTIVE AND PERFORMANCE FACTORS**
(FISCAL 1999)**

Summary of Predictive Factors by Jurisdiction*		Summary of Performance Factors by Jurisdiction*	
1. Anne Arundel County	(7.0)	1. Baltimore City	(6.0)
2. Baltimore City	(8.0)	2. Cecil County	(6.7)
3. Frederick County	(13.0)	3. Carroll County	(7.0)
4. Baltimore County	(14.25)	4. Howard County	(7.7)
5. Prince George's County	(14.75)	5. Dorchester County	(7.7)
6. Calvert County	(15.0)	6. Harford County	(8.0)
7. Carroll County	(15.75)	7. Frederick County	(8.3)
8. Charles County	(16.25)	8. Anne Arundel County	(9.3)
9. Washington County	(17.75)	9. Charles County	(10.0)
10. Dorchester County	(19.75)	10. Calvert County	(10.3)
11. Talbot County	(20.5)	11. Baltimore County	(11.0)
12. Howard County	(20.75)	12. Prince George's County	(11.7)
13. Somerset County	(21.0)	13. Allegany County	(11.7)
14. Montgomery County	(21.0)	14. Kent County	(12.3)
15. Worcester County	(21.75)	15. Garrett County	(13.3)
16. Harford County	(23.75)	16. St. Mary's County	(14.7)
17. Queen Anne's County	(25.0)	17. Talbot County	(15.3)
18. Allegany County	(27.75)	18. Caroline County	(15.7)
19. Caroline County	(27.75)	19. Montgomery County	(16.0)
20. Cecil County	(29.75)	20. Washington County	(16.0)
21. Wicomico County	(31.25)	21. Wicomico County	(19.7)
22. St. Mary's County	(35.5)	22. Worcester County	(20.0)
23. Garrett County	(38.5)	23. Queen Anne's County	(20.7)
24. Kent County	(39.0)	24. Somerset County	(22.0)

*Collective ranking determined by assigning a weight of three to filing per judge, a weight of one to population per judge, a weight of two to pending cases per judge, and a weight of one to the ratio of attorneys to judges.

*Collective ranking determined by assigning a weight of one to the filing to disposition times for criminal, civil, and juvenile cases. Inverted ranking to show longest times.

**Lower number indicates greater need for judgeship: for example, a number one ranking of a predictive factor would indicate a higher amount of volume whereas a number one ranking of a performance factor would indicate a slower ability to handle workload. If a jurisdiction is listed near the top of both lists, then this shows that a relatively strong need exists for a judge based on the variables considered.

TABLE 9

Exhibit A-2

**PROJECTED NUMBER OF ESTIMATED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JUDICIAL OFFICERS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**

	Projected Filings 2001	No. of Judges	No. of Standing Masters^b	Adjusted Number Judicial Resources	Average Projected No. of Filings Per Judge and Standing Master 2001	Additional Judicial Resources Needed by Standard^c
First Circuit						
Dorchester	2,184	1.0	0.6	1.6	1,365	0.2
Somerset	2,507	1.0	0.4	1.4	1,791	0.7
Wicomico	5,320	3.0	0.9	3.9	1,364	0.5
Worcester	4,144	2.0	0.5	2.5	1,658	0.9
Circuit Total	14,155	7.0	2.4	9.4	1,506	
Second Circuit						
Caroline	1,745	1.0	0.2	1.2	1,454	0.3
Cecil	5,012	3.0	0.0	3.0	1,671	1.2
Kent	1,604	1.0	0.2	1.2	1,337	0.1
Queen Anne's	1,942	1.0	0.0	1.0	1,942	0.6
Talbot	1,963	1.0	0.4	1.4	1,402	0.2
Circuit Total	12,266	7.0	0.8	7.8	1,573	
Third Circuit						
Baltimore	29,456	16.0	5.0	21.0	1,403	0.0
Harford	7,679	5.0	1.6	6.6	1,163	0.0
Circuit Total	37,135	21.0	6.6	27.6	1,345	
Fourth Circuit						
Allegany	4,002	2.0	0.4	2.4	1,668	0.9
Garrett	1,168	1.0	0.4	1.4	834	0.0
Washington	9,281	4.0	1.0	5.0	1,856	2.7
Circuit Total	14,451	7.0	1.8	8.8	1,642	
Fifth Circuit						
Anne Arundel	18,738	10.0	5.0	15.0	1,249	0.0
Carroll	5,850	3.0	1.5	4.5	1,300	0.4
Howard	8,610	5.0	3.0	8.0	1,076	0.0
Circuit Total	33,198	18.0	9.5	27.5	1,207	
Sixth Circuit						
Frederick	7,061	4.0	0.4	4.4	1,605	1.5
Montgomery	31,486	17.0	4.0	21.0	1,499	0.0
Circuit Total	38,547	21.0	4.4	25.4	1,518	
Seventh Circuit						
Calvert	5,067	2.0	1.0	3.0	1,689	1.2
Charles	8,691	4.0	2.0	6.0	1,449	1.2
Prince George's	44,718	23.0	6.0	29.0	1,542	0.8
St. Mary's	5,214	3.0	1.0	4.0	1,304	0.3
Circuit Total	63,690	32.0	10.0	42.0	1,516	
Eighth Circuit						
Baltimore City	66,759	30.0	14.0	44.0	1,517	0.0
Circuit Total	66,759	30.0	14.0	44.0	1,517	

^aCircuit courts in Harford and Montgomery Counties hear matters that would ordinarily be heard by the Orphans' Court. Beginning with Fiscal Year 1998, the Orphans' Court statistics for Montgomery County were included with the civil figures. Approximately 30 case filings were added to Harford County's projection for Fiscal Year 2001.

^bFull-time and part-time juvenile and domestic masters are included in this column but not masters who are compensated on a fee basis. They are calculated as a percentage of a judicial officer because of the number of filings handled yearly by these individuals.

This column does not reflect the use of retired judges recalled to service because of unfilled judicial vacancies and illnesses of active judges. In Fiscal Year 1999 a total of 1,522 judge days (including settlement conferences) were provided by retired circuit court judges.

Although efforts have been made to establish a weighted caseload statistical system, it has not been practicable to do so effectively. Obviously, in terms of time and complexity, some cases are many times more demanding than others. While each circuit court tends to have its share of these more difficult cases, some courts have experienced these cases in very substantial numbers; e.g., asbestos litigation which is handled primarily in Baltimore City for the entire state (approximately 12,000 pending cases, including a consolidated common issues case involving 2,000 plaintiffs) and lead paint cases. The trial of these cases takes in the extreme sometimes 8-12 weeks or longer. The same rationale is applicable in death penalty cases.

Increases in the number of projected filings is due in large part to the influx of criminal cases transferred to the circuit courts from the District Court where the defendant is entitled to and demands a jury trial. Less than 2 percent of these cases (total filings of 25,093 in Fiscal Year 1999) actually results in jury trials; most are disposed of by plea negotiation between the prosecution and defense rather than by actual trial.

^cThe scale utilized for this column in Fiscal Year 2001 is as follows: 1200 filings - 1 to 8 judicial officers and 1500 filings - 9 or more judges and standing masters.

Exhibit A-3

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
First Judicial Circuit



DANIEL M. LONG
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

The Circuit Court for Somerset County

FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

P.O. BOX 279

PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853-0279

Exhibit A-3

TELEPHONE
410-651-1630

October 25, 1999

Frank Broccolina
Acting State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
261 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1699

Re: Judgeship Needs
First Judicial Circuit

Dear Frank:

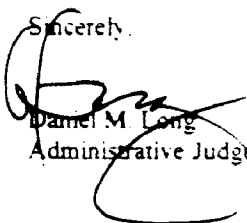
This letter, in response to the Memorandum from Chief Judge Robert M. Bell dated October 18, 1999, requests consideration for one additional judge for the First Judicial Circuit. The most recent "Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit Courts" confirms that we are short 4.7 judges "by standard" and 2.3 judicial officers "by standard" if one includes our standing masters.

In the past, Dorchester and Wicomico Counties shared a judge and the expenses for that judge. Because of the number of pending cases in Wicomico County, including a large number of medical malpractice cases, we have not sent a Wicomico judge to Dorchester for several months. Consequently, one judge and a part-time master now serve Dorchester only.

If Chief Judge Bell were to approve an additional judge for one of our counties and the General Assembly were to fund the position, I would assign that judge to hear mostly domestic cases. It is also my plan to have the judge sit in all four of our counties. While there is no room for an additional judge in Somerset or Wicomico Counties at this time, Dorchester does have space and Worcester will have space in the near future. I also believe that local funding may be available in both of those counties to provide for support staff.

If you should need additional information, please advise. As always, we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,


Daniel M. Long
Administrative Judge

cc: Hon. Robert M. Bell
Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg
Hon. Donald F. Johnson
Hon. D. William Simpson

Exhibit A-4

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Second Judicial Circuit



EXHIBIT A-4

The Second Judicial Circuit of Maryland
CIRCUIT COURT FOR TALBOT COUNTY

WILLIAM S. HORNE
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

COURT HOUSE
11 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET
EASTON, MARYLAND 21829
410-822-4444

August 27, 1999

Mr. Frank Broccolina
Deputy State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. ^{Frank}Broccolina:

In response to your letter of August 17th, the factor that has contributed to my Court's work load in a significant way during the past fiscal year is my appointment as Administrative Judge for the Second Judicial Circuit. While this has not increased my case load, it has increased my administrative duties so that I now, more than ever, recognize the need for a Circuit Administrator to assist with these additional duties.

Very truly yours,

William C. Horne

WCH:ld

Exhibit A-5

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Third Judicial Circuit



The Circuit Court for Baltimore County

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

CHAMBERS OF
EDWARD A. DEWATERS, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE AND
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

October 27, 1999

COUNTY COURTS BUILDING
TOWSON, MD. 21204
410-887-2642
FAX 410-887-5910

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Blvd.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chief Judge Bell:

This is in response to your request for comments regarding the statistical analysis prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts on the need for additional Circuit Court Judgeships in Fiscal Year 2001 [Re: Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit Courts 2000 Session (Fiscal Year 2001)].

The last time the Circuit Court for Baltimore County requested and was authorized an additional judgeship was during the 1997 session of the General Assembly. Judge Alexander Wright was appointed to that position. Prior to that appointment, the Court was authorized an additional judge during the 1990 session of the General Assembly. Over the past ten years, during which I have had the pleasure of serving as Circuit Administrative Judge, there have been a significant number of changes, both in terms of workload and the way we do business in the Courts. Some of these include:

(1) District Court Civil Jurisdictional Changes - Over the past year or so, there were two jurisdictional changes which should have had an impact on the Circuit Court's workload. One was increasing the exclusive jurisdiction of actions filed in the District Court from \$20,000 to \$25,000 and the second was increasing the eligibility standard for civil jury trials from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Despite both of these changes, the volume of the civil filings rose eight percent in the past year in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County from 15,402 civil filings in Fiscal Year 1998 to 16,764 in Fiscal Year 1999. Most of this increase came from two major case categories...judicial sales/foreclosures and divorce cases.

(2) Criminal Jury Trial Prayers - Criminal data over the past nine years indicate that there has been a decline in the overall number of criminal filings in Baltimore County by 6.0 percent (see

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
October 27, 1999
Page two

attached table), while at the same time the overall number of statewide criminal filings increased by 30 percent (from 69,451 in Fiscal Year 1990 to 72,123 in Fiscal Year 1999). Most of this reduced workload was due to the success of the Instant Jury Program, which began in Baltimore County in January of 1990. This fast track approach was initiated with jury trial prayers in the District Court. This meant that the vast majority of defendants who request a jury trial, are tried either the same day or the next day in the Circuit Court. Most of these cases, as you know, do not result in a jury trial in the Circuit Court. In fact, the overwhelming number of these cases remain in the District Court, once it is realized that the case will be tried promptly in the Circuit Court. This program has had the net effect of reducing the Court's criminal workload by 20 to 25 percent or 200 or more filings per month. Without this program in effect, our Court would need at least one and a half or two more judges.

(3) **Civil ADR Efforts and Settlement Court** - In Baltimore County, settlement court has long been proven as an effective mechanism to resolve civil disputes and we have been very fortunate in obtaining the services of three retired judges (Judges Cicone, Hennegan, and Sfekas) who are supported by funds from both the State and local units of government. These judges hear settlement conferences on domestic and civil cases 30 days prior to trial. In calendar year 1998, these judges conducted 1,877 hearings and disposed of 1,422 cases or approximately 76 percent of the matters brought before them.

Two years ago, in an effort to control the number of civil cases going to a settlement conference and to resolve disputes at an earlier stage, a civil mediation program was begun in Baltimore County. Since September 1, 1997, there have been 1,138 cases referred to this program, about half of which are contract cases and the other half are worker's compensation cases. Thus far, 525 reports have been received from approximately 75 trained mediators. Approximately 67 percent of the cases (348) have been settled prior to or at a mediation conference. This has had a positive effect at reducing the cost of litigation as well as making certain that the daily assignments are more manageable in terms of fewer cases having to be placed on a "wait list".

(4) **Use of Retired Judges to Try Cases** - Through the use of "recall judges" which you have so graciously made available to us, we have been able to use the services of Judges Brennan and Hennegan to fill in when our daily caseloads are in need of assistance. Additionally over the past year or so, we have had the services of Judge Marshall Levine, who has been able to sit approximately five months of the year to hear CINA reviews and to try civil jury trials.

All of these efforts, including the use of ADR, retired judges and the appointment of a sixteenth judge (Judge Wright), have been instrumental in reducing the number of cases, placed on stand-by and also the cases not reached by the court once placed on stand-by. It is noted that in calendar year 1996, the Court averaged 53 cases a month that were placed on stand-by as opposed to 1999, when this number has decreased to 32 cases a month.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
October 27, 1999
Page three

From the above it is clear that we have utilized every method to handle the increased caseload since 1990 without consistently requesting additional judges.

Turning to family related litigation in the Circuit Courts, Baltimore County has been able to successfully consolidate the Master Services under the Family Division so that all conferences and hearings are now heard within the courthouse at no additional expense to the litigants. These services include: settlement scheduling conferences, pendente lite hearings, uncontested divorce hearings and all other post judgment matters or modifications not specially assigned to a Family Division Judge. Preliminary statistics have shown that in the first year, the Masters have settled approximately 22 percent of the cases before them with respect to all issues and have helped to limit the issues in 17 percent of the cases. Collectively the Masters have conducted a total of 1,019 settlement/scheduling conferences between October 5, 1998 and October 1, 1999, meaning that approximately 400 cases have reached some degree of settlement as a result of the Family Division Masters.

In order to fully implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Family Division pertaining to use of Masters, it has been recommended that two additional judgeships be added to the Circuit Courts in each of the five major jurisdictions, one in the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2001 and one in Fiscal Year 2002. It is my understanding that the duties of these judges would include protective order hearings of domestic violence cases now heard in the District Court where a family related matter has already been filed in the Family Division as well as contempt cases involving child support (excluding Title IV-D cases), alimony, visitation and other orders of the Family Division Judges. We also envision that it is important to establish as part of those duties chamber matters that would be exclusively assigned to a Family Division Judge. Most of these matters are now currently assigned to one judge assigned to all chambers matters. This would go a long toward having one Family Division Judge focus on chambers matters that pertain exclusively to the family. In order to effectively redistribute this work over a period of time, the Circuit Court will need two additional judgeships to be placed in over the next two fiscal years. To further document the need for additional judgeships to handle domestic violence protective order hearings, the District Court in Baltimore County recorded 2,807 of these cases in Fiscal 1999. To the extent that a portion of these cases would be transferred to the Circuit Court would mean an additional burden on our existing judicial resources.

With respect to space and staff needed for these additional judges, the County is aware that these positions will be requested in the State Budget within the next two years. I plan to request the appropriate support positions when our local budgets are submitted to the County Executive and County Council. Space will not be a problem once a new hearing room is constructed for our Family Division Master which should be available within the next four to five months. Once this occurs, the courtroom that is currently being used by one master will be assigned to a judge from the Family Division. Once the second judge is approved, he or she will rotate to courtrooms based upon availability.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
October 27, 1999
Page four

In summary, if all of the changes are to be implemented in the Family Division over the next two years, the Circuit Court for Baltimore County will need two additional judgeships. We simply cannot handle this additional workload without increasing the number of judges in Baltimore County. I hope that this rather detailed explanation gives you a broader picture of our need.

With respect to Harford County, I do not believe there is a need for another judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward A. Dewaters, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Edward A. Dewaters, Jr.

cc: Mr. Frank Broccolina
Mr. Peter J. Lally

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Civil, Juvenile and Criminal Filings (Original and Reopened Cases)
Fiscal Years 1991 through 1999

	FY'91	FY'92	FY'93	FY'94	FY'95	FY'96	FY'97	FY'98	FY'99	% Change Since FY'91
CIVIL	14,061	15,088	15,098	15,300	14,957	15,957	15,429	15,402	16,764	+19.0
JUVENILE	3,368	3,448	3,556	3,872	4,628	4,589	4,800	4,986	4,250	+26.0
CRIMINAL	7,955	7,200	6,801	7,328	7,225	7,789	7,571	7,667	7,465	-6.0
TOTAL	25,384	25,736	25,455	26,500	26,810	27,952	27,800	28,055	28,479	+12.0

Exhibit A-6

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Fourth Judicial Circuit



FRED C. WRIGHT III
CHIEF JUDGE
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MARYLAND

CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
TELEPHONE 301 791-3111
FAX 301 791-1048

October 22, 1999

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chief Judge Bell:

Once again, Washington County ranks 6th in Circuit Court filings (behind only the five metropolitan jurisdictions) and shows the most pressing need for additional judicial resources in the State. See Table 9 and compare "adjusted number judicial resources" and "judicial resources by standard" columns. Although the county would be willing to fund the support positions required if additional judgeships were established, there is no space available within the courthouse to expand any judicial services.

A plan is in place, however, to provide additional space but because of the necessity to relocate certain state and county executive government functions (calendar 2000), remove asbestos (2001) and renovate (2002), we must withhold requesting that Washington County be included in Fiscal Year 2001 efforts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred C. Wright, III".

Fred C. Wright, III
Administrative Judge
Fourth Judicial Circuit

FCW:djg

Exhibit A-7

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit



Fifth Judicial Circuit of Maryland

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

CLAYTON GREENE JR.
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
AND ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

October 25, 1999

TELEPHONE
410-431-1111

Frank Broccolina
Acting State Court Administrator
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Statistical Needs Analysis for
New Judgeships in Anne Arundel County
2000 Session

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

I write this letter in response to Chief Judge Bell's memorandum dated October 18, 1999. It appears that both the statistical needs analysis and the effective management of dockets of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County support the need for additional judgeships.

Compared with other Circuit Courts in Maryland, Anne Arundel County ranks second in pending cases per judge. For example, the ten judges in Anne Arundel County are carrying 3,136 cases each for purposes of resolution. However, the judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, a complement of sixteen judges, have 3,099 cases pending per judge. It does not seem equitable that the trial judges of Anne Arundel County should carry more cases by comparison than Baltimore County which has a comparable population.

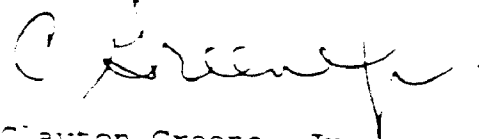
Other important indicators are both the predictive and performance factors. Anne Arundel County is ranked first in predictive factors and eighth in performance factors. The number one ranking of a predictive factor indicates a high amount of volume and a greater need for additional judgeships. Additionally, the eighth ranking of a performance factor suggests the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court has a slower ability to manage its workload. Based upon the variables considered in this analysis, a strong need exists for additional judgeships.

In my capacity as Administrative Judge for Anne Arundel County, I have noticed an increase in the number of cases specially assigned to our trial judges because of the complexity of the cases. These cases involve complex legal issues and usually require 8 to 15 days of trial time.

In an effort to better manage the complex litigation and the civil non-domestic docket in general, we will depend more upon our case management plan. This plan utilizes the services of a judicial officer to conduct scheduling conferences and subsequent settlement conferences. Trial dates are not assigned until all efforts to settle the case have been explored with the scheduling and settlement judges. After these steps have been completed, the Court's obligation is to assure that there are judges available to try those cases which have not settled. In order to assist in managing those cases to trial, involvement of the Court to a greater degree is required in the development of cases. The net result is a need for more judicial manpower in each segment of case management. In order to settle cases before trial, it requires greater involvement of judges from the time the matters are at issue until resolution. We anticipate more cases will settle short of trial, but such a solution is unlikely without a skilled judicial hand to guide the litigants early in the process.

In conclusion, one to two additional judges is necessary for Anne Arundel County to meet its objective of fair and expeditious resolution of its cases.

Very truly yours,



Clayton Greene, Jr.

CG/kk

Enclosures

Exhibit A-8

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Sixth Judicial Circuit



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MARYLAND
JUDICIAL CENTER
50 COURTHOUSE SQUARE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

PAUL H. WEINSTEIN
Circuit Administrative Judge

(301) 217-7455

October 27, 1999

Mr. Frank Broccolina
Deputy State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit
Courts 2000 Session (Fiscal Year 2001)

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

This letter is in response to the Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit Courts, 2000 Session (Fiscal Year 2001) for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Maryland. This circuit is seeking additional judgeship positions in both Montgomery and Frederick Counties. Substantial growth in population in both counties has had a direct impact on the caseloads.

In Montgomery County, our concerns are directly associated with the new family rules and the reorganization of the circuit court to support the family division. As was expressed last year, it is believed that the successful implementation of any family division depends upon the proper judicial and social resources. As in most circuit courts in the state, case assignment focus has always been based upon percentage fall-out together with available judge time. Regardless of case type on the day of the scheduled hearing or trial, that particular case can be heard or assigned to any available judge. In order to achieve the goals established by the state and local committees on family division implementation, we must focus upon special case assignment as well as problem solving and prevention. To fully achieve this principle, the courts must not allow the full compliment of judges to handle certain segments of domestic cases. Judges and masters must be specially assigned to cases, thus providing the parties with continuity in the decision-making process. The social services aspect, an equally important mission of the family division, together with state funding for those

Mr. Frank Broccolina

October 27, 1999

Page Two

services will certainly place a new emphasis on the divorcing family. However, without judicial resources being assigned to these cases, too much time will transpire between events, allowing uncertainty and dysfunction.

Also, in compliance with the recommendations on the reform of the master system, the masters will no longer hear certain legal proceedings, such as modifications and merits. After full implementation of a statewide master policy, an enormous impact will be associated with the family judges' calendar assignments. Frankly, we will not have enough judges to effectively assign to all the various calendar assignments.

Indeed, the statistical needs analysis has been a reliable, consistent tool in determining statewide judicial positions. Now that the family divisions have been successfully established, I believe a weighted caseload study should be instituted for determining need. The current system should be revised or altered to take into consideration the complexity of cases and other factors associated with individual cases. Judges can spend hours and even days working with a family to resolve issues, as well with or attorneys and litigants resolving civil issues. Nevertheless there is no credit allocated to that workload factor.

Frederick County's population has increased dramatically over the past few years and that has a direct increase in the caseload filings of the courts. Frederick's projected population forecast indicates that it will continue to rise, thus we should continue to see a rise in case filings. Their need for additional judgeships is clear in the analysis, but workload factors are most emphasized by the explosion of cases in the juvenile area. The juvenile hearing caseload has increased 40% since FY97. That increase has put a tremendous strain on the judiciary when considering a 24% increase in civil case filings and an 18% increase in adult criminal filings since FY95. They can not continue at the existing pace without assistance.

Consistent with past years' requirements, both Frederick and Montgomery Counties have the local support necessary and will have courtroom space available by July 2000.

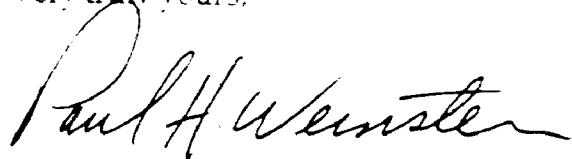
Mr. Frank Broccolina

October 27, 1999

Page Three

We hope you continue to regard the statistical needs analysis as the beginning point for making recommendations to the legislature for additional judgeships. Frederick and Montgomery Counties are working diligently to decrease filing to disposition times while at the same time exhaustively working to improve the administration of justice. The Sixth Judicial Circuit is respectfully requesting an additional judgeship for Frederick County and additional judgeships in Montgomery County in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference of Circuit Court Judges. In anticipation of your cooperation, I thank you.

Very truly yours,



Paul H. Weinstein

PHW/pqh

The Hon. G. Edward Dwyer, Jr.

Exhibit A-9

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Seventh Judicial Circuit



Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland

COURT HOUSE

UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND 20772

WILLIAM D. MISSOURI

SEVENTH CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

(301) 952-3728

FAX (301) 952-3204

November 1, 1999

Hon. Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
361 Rowe Blvd
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chief Judge Bell:

I offer the following comments after reviewing the judicial needs analysis for the Prince George's County Circuit Court. It is the understanding of those of us in Prince George's County that the Administrative Office of the Courts, in light of the Interim Policy for Domestic Relations Masters, will be recommending additional judges for those courts having family divisions. With this in mind, Prince George's County submitted, in September 1999, a judicial needs estimate which required three additional judges to assume the hearing responsibilities now assigned to the masters for Domestic Relations Causes.

This court has now had the opportunity to review in more detail the estimates that we supplied to the Administrative Office of the Courts in September 1999. Given our internal policy of assigning judges to the Family Division for 75% of their time, we have considered the implications for the court's master calendar. From September 1998 through September 1999 over 30,000 events were heard by the Prince George's County Domestic Masters. We have isolated those events that now, in consideration of the Interim Policy applicable to Family Division courts, seem most appropriate for judicial oversight. In so doing, we have calculated the approximate amount of time that each event will require. We then applied the known differences in allocation of bench time between judges and masters. This data leads us to conclude that three plus judges are needed to hear the contested issues that will be removed from the masters.

As you know, Prince George's County is a jurisdiction with a large percentage of family law filings and is currently highly dependent upon our masters as hearing officers. We currently enjoy a low exception rate and have a cadre of knowledgeable, talented, hard working, and focused masters. Based upon the diligent work of our masters, we project a reduction in efficiency when contested matters, presently heard by masters, are transferred to judges who are only required to donate 75% of their time to the Family Division. We anticipate this result because most judges do not have the experience in the family law area that the masters presently enjoy. Therefore, newly appointed judges who may be assigned to the Family Division will require extensive orientation in family law matters. Judges who rotate

November 1, 1999
page 2.

into the Family Division from other assignments will require an immediate refresher course in family law matters. I feel certain that you understand the necessity to have a highly trained and educated cadre of judges to serve the needs of Family Division clients.

As the administrative judge for the Prince George's County Circuit Court, I take this opportunity to stress the need for the above stated number of judges to replace the masters once they cease hearing contested matters. I also wish to stress on behalf of the court that a strict adherence to the Interim Masters Policy will not be possible without additional judicial resources.

As always, I thank you for your understanding and support of all of our courts, but particularly the Circuit Court in Prince George's County and throughout the Seventh Judicial Circuit. With best regards I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

William D. Missouri
Administrative Judge
7th Judicial Circuit

Exhibit A-10

Comments of Circuit Administrative Judge
Eighth Judicial Circuit



Circuit Court
for
Baltimore City

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND
111 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

ELLEN M. HELLER
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

(410) 396 4916
FAX (410) 545-7326
City Dept. TTY (410) 396 4930
E-mail: E.ellenheller@ccmd.uscourts.gov

October 20, 1999

Frank Broccolina
Deputy State Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Bldg.
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: New Judgeships - FY 2001

Dear Frank:

I am responding to the October 18, 1999 memorandum from Chief Judge Bell. Baltimore City has already submitted a letter requesting two additional judges. I would only supplement that request with the observation that we are going to begin scheduling asbestos cases in clusters of 30 before five civil judges at two and three week intervals in the near future. Also, there remain very heavy family division and criminal dockets which could readily use additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ellen M. Heller".

Ellen M. Heller
Administrative Judge

EMH/kms

cc: Hon. Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge

**Circuit Court
for
Baltimore City**

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND
111 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

CHAMBERS OF
EPH H. H. KAPLAN
CHIEF JUDGE AND
CIRCUIT
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

(410) 396-5080
FAX (410) 545-7323
City Deal TTY (410) 396-4931

September 9, 1999

Mr. Frank Broccolina
Deputy State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts
Robert C. Murphy Courts of
Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

Thanks for giving me the opportunity of discussing with our Management Committee and most of the Judges of this Bench our judge power needs for the next fiscal year. As I am sure you are aware, over the last several years, our criminal docket grew to overwhelming proportions. Overwhelming based on not only our staffing but the staffing of the Public Defender and the State's Attorney and the Sheriff. There are approximately 60,000 drug addicts in Baltimore City, and a substantial proportion of them are involved in the criminal justice system. We have removed judges from other dockets, in particular, the civil and the domestic, in order to increase our ability to handle the incoming felony cases. We expect that condition to continue for the indefinite future and, therefore, will not be able to return the removed judges to the domestic docket or to the civil docket.

Naturally, the removal of a judge from the domestic docket has hurt the handling of that docket, as the removal of a judge from the civil docket has damaged the handling of that docket. We are now operating with three judges to handle the domestic docket and three judges to handle the juvenile docket. The juvenile docket now handles all the termination of parental rights cases in addition to all of their other responsibilities.

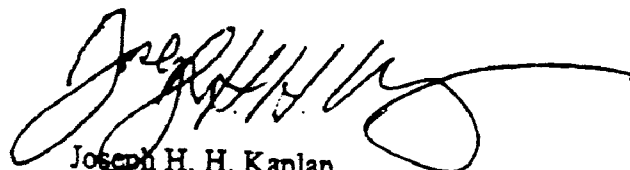
On the civil side, though there have been global settlements with various defendants for many thousands of cases, there still remain about 12,000 cases to be disposed of with other defendants and thousands of cases that have been filed since the global settlements to be disposed of with the defendants that have entered into the global settlement, as well as the other defendants.. In short, the asbestos docket will be around for the next several years at least.

Mr. Frank Broccolina
September 9, 1999
Page Two

The civil docket also is faced with hundreds of lead paint cases and several hundred medical malpractice cases, along with all the other civil matters that are filed at the rate of about 600 per month.

Consequently, we believe that at least two additional judges are justified for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. With the addition of four courtrooms, chambers and other facilities as of January, 2000, we will have sufficient room for two additional judges and our cadre of very essential retired judges. Without their help, our prayer for relief would be much greater. The addition of two judges to our judicial cadre would basically allow us to more adequately staff our understaffed Family and Civil Divisions.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph H. H. Kaplan
Chief and Administrative Judge

JHHK:sp

cc: Hon. Robert M. Bell
Hon. Ellen M. Heller
Hon. Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.
Hon. David B. Mitchell
Hon. Martin P. Welch
George B. Riggin, Jr., Esq.
Mr. Larry Reiner
Mr. Michael Neale
M's Faye Gaskin ✓

Exhibit B

Letter To Chief Judge Bell From Chief Judge Rasin
Certifying Need For Additional
District Court Judgeships



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

MARTHA F. RASIN
Chief Judge

Court of Appeals Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Tel: (410) 280-1525
Fax: (410) 874-5028

September 8, 1999

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge
Court of Appeals of Maryland
634 Courthouse East
111 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Judge Bell:

I am herewith submitting my assessment of the need for additional District Court judgeships for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000.

I have again solicited the views of the twelve administrative judges of the District Court as to whether they foresee a need for any new judicial positions in their respective districts. The following two districts have submitted requests to me for additional judgeships: District Four (St. Mary's County) and District Five (Prince George's County). My office has conducted an analysis of current and past statistics dealing with caseloads, bench time averages, assistance from retired judges, and other factors peculiar to these jurisdictions.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY - DISTRICT FOUR

You will recall that last year when I submitted my assessment for additional judgeships I said I believed there was a good case to be made for an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County in the not-too-distant future. I believe that time may soon arrive, but I will not at this time request an additional judgeship for this jurisdiction. I have enclosed the written documentation submitted by the administrative judge in District Four, and I would like to offer the following comments concerning some of the points raised in his request:

St. Mary's County does seem to be growing by leaps and bounds, as evidenced by recent statistics which show that population has increased - in one-year's time - by 2.8%. Although population statistics and population/judge ratio (please see enclosed charts) most certainly should be taken into consideration, I do not believe they should be the determining factor for an

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Page Two
September 8, 1999

additional judgeship. You will see from the documentation that the local law enforcement agencies have recently budgeted for additional personnel. That factor, I believe, coupled with the continued increase in population, will most certainly have a future impact on our caseload.

The documentation compares the caseload in St. Mary's County to that of other one-judge counties in the State. Only one other county, Worcester County (Chart #4, FY '97), shows a higher caseload. Although Worcester County (District Two) is a one-judge county, there are some peculiarities that exist. As you know, that jurisdiction contains two District Court facilities, Snow Hill and Ocean City. Our resident judge there divides his time between the two locations, and in addition travels one day a month from January through June, as do other judges in that district. It may well be that the heavy caseload in Worcester County will necessitate an assessment of our judicial resources in that jurisdiction in the very near future.

As you are well aware, our existing judgeship in St. Mary's County has been vacant since the appointment of Judge Raley to the circuit court in December, 1998. Judge Raley is, indeed, highly efficient, and was able to keep abreast of the heavy caseload while on our court. Fortunately, we have been able to continue Judge Raley's effectiveness through the use of retired judges, and other judges who are available for travel, and sustain no appreciable backlog.

Oddly enough, it is primarily the existing vacancy that causes me not to request an additional judgeship at this time. Even though St. Mary's County ranks high in the statewide average in the category of cases filed or processed per judge, and the population projection continues to increase, I believe a better assessment can be made once that judgeship is filled. I will, therefore, keep a close eye on the situation over the ensuing months and reassess our needs for an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County next year.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY - DISTRICT FIVE

The enclosed statistics submitted by the administrative judge in Prince George's County demonstrate the heavy caseload in that jurisdiction.

The advent of peace orders will most definitely have an impact on their caseload, as they will in all other jurisdictions. The extent to which these orders will overburden our courts, however, remains to be seen.

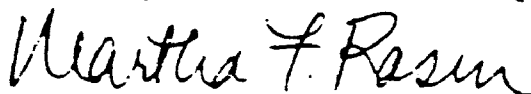
An examination of current statistics (July 1998-June 1999) shows that Prince George's County has the highest number of motor vehicle cases, and falls behind only Baltimore City in the number of criminal and civil case filings.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell
Page Three
September 8, 1999

As you know, in the past three years we have certified a need for, and received, two additional judgeships in Prince George's County. As of this writing, the more recent judgeship has not been filled, but I anticipate that it will be in the very near future. That judgeship, I believe, will go a long way toward easing the burdens on our judges in that county, and I will, therefore, not request an additional judgeship in Prince George's County for the fiscal year beginning July, 1, 2000.

Judge Clagett and Judge Kratovil have done an excellent job in laying out the bases for their concerns that future growth of population and caseloads will have a direct impact on our operations. I think, however, that until the existing vacancies in these two jurisdictions are filled we cannot fully assess whether we are unable to handle the present and upcoming caseloads. For that reason and others set out above, I am not asking that you seek additional District Court judgeships from the legislature in the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

Sincerely,



Martha F. Rasin

MFR:bj

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Stephen L. Clagett
The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil
✓ George B. Riggan, Jr., Esq./w/encl
Ms. Patricia L. Platt/w/encl



Stephen L. Clagett
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
District Number 4

Louis Goldstein Multi-Service Center
200 Duke Street, 2nd Floor
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-4122
(410) 535-2091
(410) 535-8800

August 24, 1999

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin
Chief Judge
District Court of Maryland
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2395

Dear Chief Judge Rasin:

I am writing this letter to formally request an additional judgeship in District IV for St. Mary's County. As the Administrative Judge of this district I set out the following facts to support this request.

The population of St. Mary's County continues to show dramatic increases. This population shift, which is occurring throughout the Southern Maryland region, is expected to continue well into the next millennium. The Maryland Office of Planning, Planning Data Services, in their published article, "Population Trends in Maryland," note that, "Calvert, Cecil and St. Mary's Counties bucked the State trend of slower population growth by having their largest gains of the 1990's in the most recent year." The *Washington Post*, relying on statistics obtained from the Bureau of the Census, reports that St. Mary's County had the third highest population growth rate of any jurisdiction within the state from 1997 to 1998, increasing their population by 2.8%. The growth of population in St. Mary's County continues to this date and gives no indication of abating in the near future.

Local government agencies have already started to respond to the increased need for services in areas that will have direct impact on the activities of the District Court. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department has budget approval for an additional 12 sworn officers in FY 1999 and 8 new sworn positions in FY 2000, an effective increase of 21%. The Maryland State Police barrack in St. Mary's County has increased its staffing by 3 additional troopers in FY 1999 and is projecting a need for an additional 5 positions for full staffing. This staffing increase will have an immediate impact on the volume of cases heard in the District Court for St. Mary's County.

Page 2

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

August 24, 1999

The District Court has responded to the increase in volume of activity by authorizing additional commissioner personnel in St. Mary's County. As of July 1, 1998, a second full time District Court Commissioner position was authorized for St. Mary's County. This position has been filled and is having an impact on the number of District Court activities in this county.

There was a third Circuit Court judgeship funded in St. Mary's County effective October 1, 1998. This position has had a significant impact on the District Court for St. Mary's County which I will address later in this request.

Statistics gathered from the "Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1997-1998" graphically demonstrate the present need for an additional District Court judgeship in St. Mary's County. During fiscal year 1998 St. Mary's County had a population of 84,000, significantly higher than any of the other one judge counties in the state (Chart #1). This number is expected to continue to show a consistent increase in the foreseeable future.

In comparison with all jurisdictions within the state, St. Mary's County has the highest population per judge of any other venue (Chart #2). It is also noted that the average population per judge in the state is 52,502. The population of St. Mary's County, a one judge jurisdiction, exceeds this average by more than thirty one thousand (Chart 3).

During fiscal year 1997, St. Mary's County recorded 24,782 cases filed and processed in the District Court. This is the highest number of cases filed or processed in a single judge county, with the exception Worcester County (Chart 4). St. Mary's County ranks above the statewide average in the category of cases filed or processed per judge. These numbers can be expected to show significant increases in the coming year as the population shift continues.

As stated earlier, the creation of a third Circuit Court judgeship in St. Mary's County has had a direct impact on District Court operations in that jurisdiction. The sitting District Court judge in St. Mary's County, Judge C. Clark Raley, was appointed to the new judgeship. While on the District Court bench, Judge Raley was a highly capable, effective, efficient and experienced jurist. This fact is demonstrated by the high levels of activity achieved in his county and accounts for the statistics reported by the judiciary's annual report during his tenure in the District Court. The District Court judgeship in St. Mary's County is vacant at present and the activities are being handled by visiting judges. Once the appointment is made to fill this vacancy, it is inconceivable to expect a newly appointed judge to immediately function in the same efficient manner.

Page 3

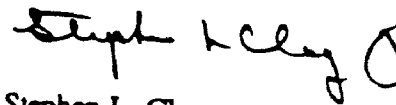
The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

August 24, 1999

The need for an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County is a statistical and practical necessity. The statistics show a continuing increase in all areas that affect District Court operations at this location. This growth is predicted to continue and the increase in population, law enforcement resources and activities must be anticipated and responded to in order to maintain efficient and effective District Court services.

The fiscal impact of an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County will be ameliorated by the fact that the existing court facility has the necessary space available for this position. I firmly believe that the creation of this new judgeship is necessary to maintain the integrity of the judicial process in St. Mary's County. I am requesting that this new judgeship be recommended to the legislature and available for appointment by no later than July 1 in the year 2000.

Very truly yours,



Stephen L. Clagen
Administrative Judge
District IV

SLC/dw

cc: Patricia H. Platt
Richard W. Clemens
Richard A. Parker

Chart #1

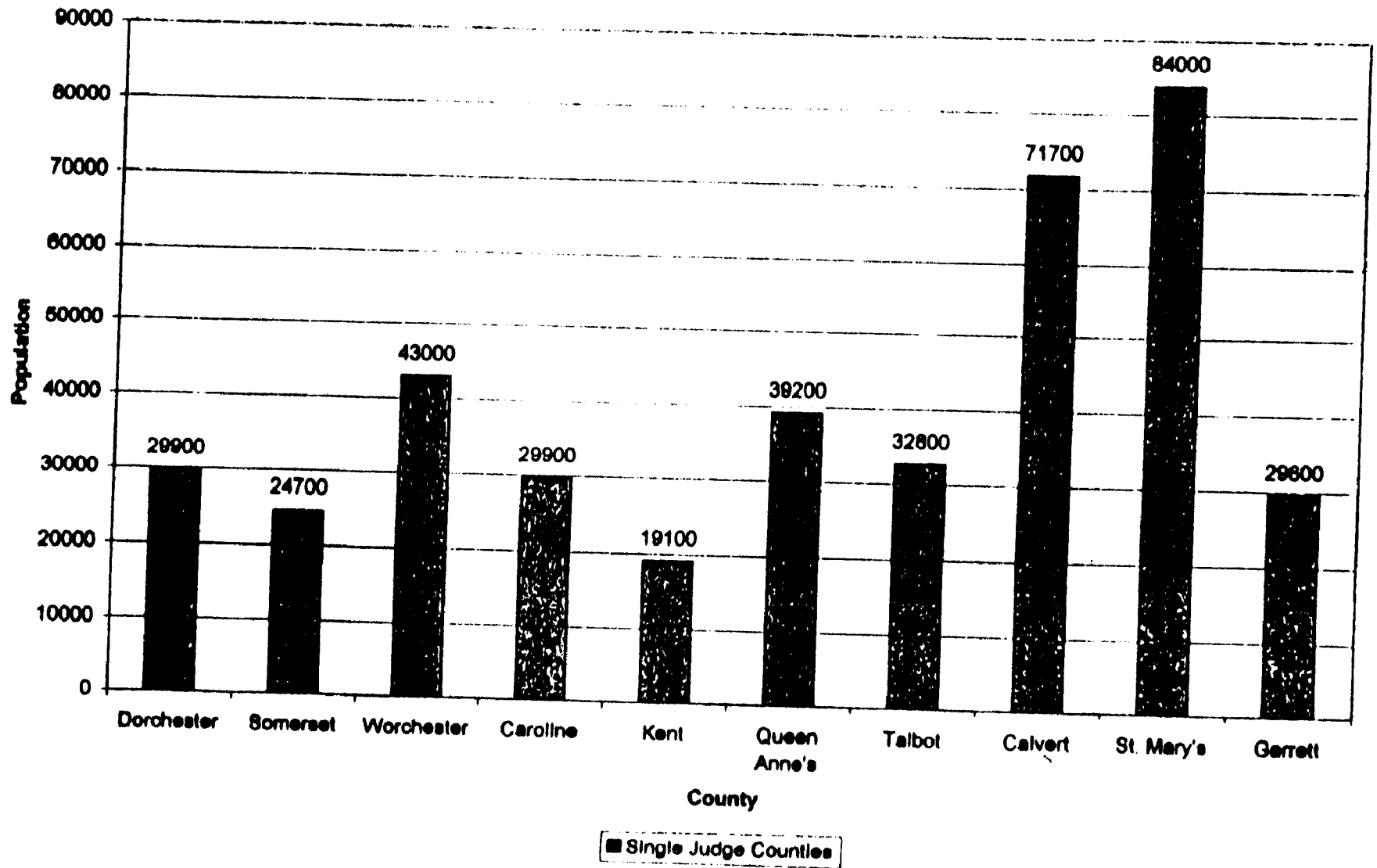


Chart #2

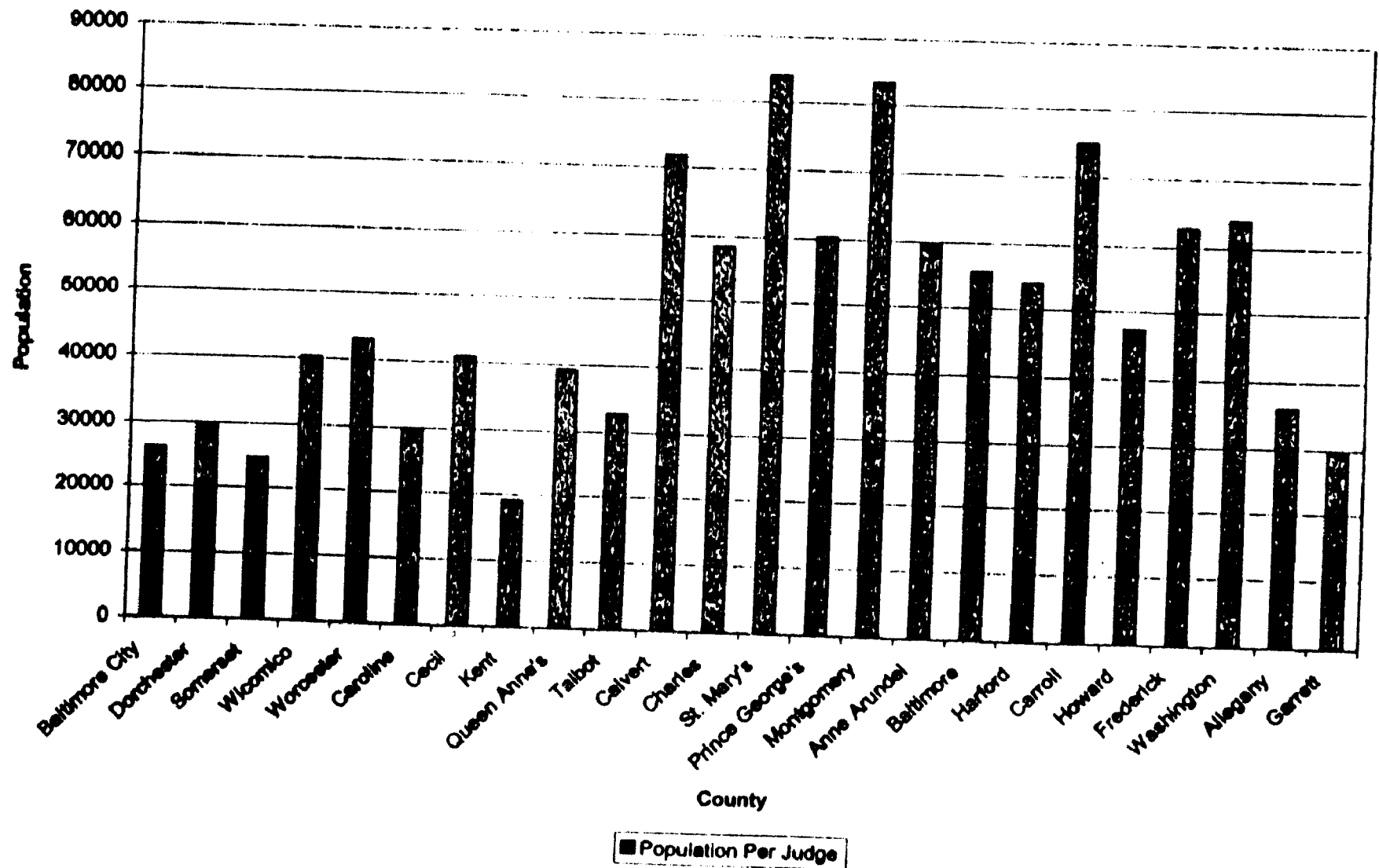


Chart #3

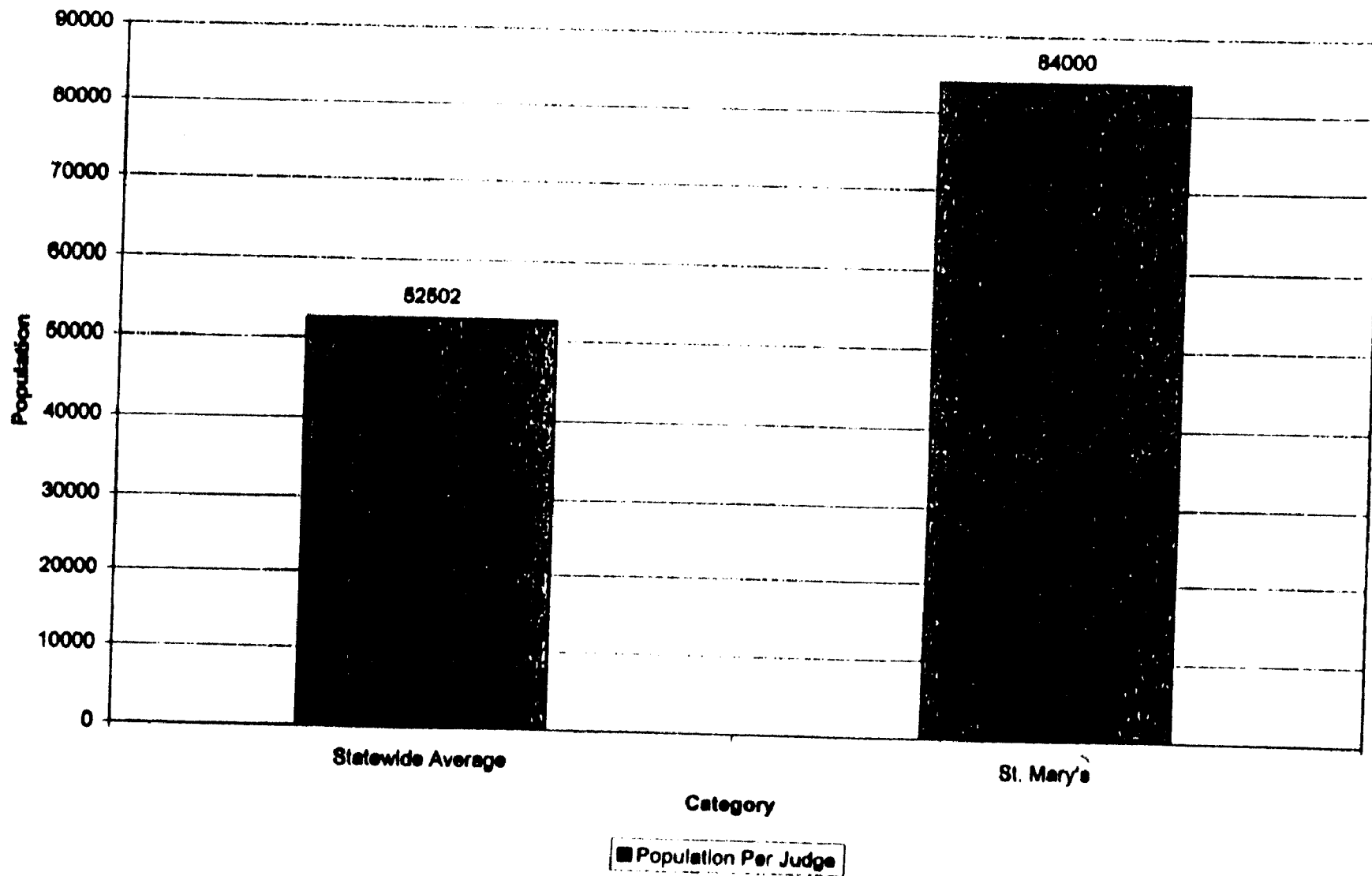
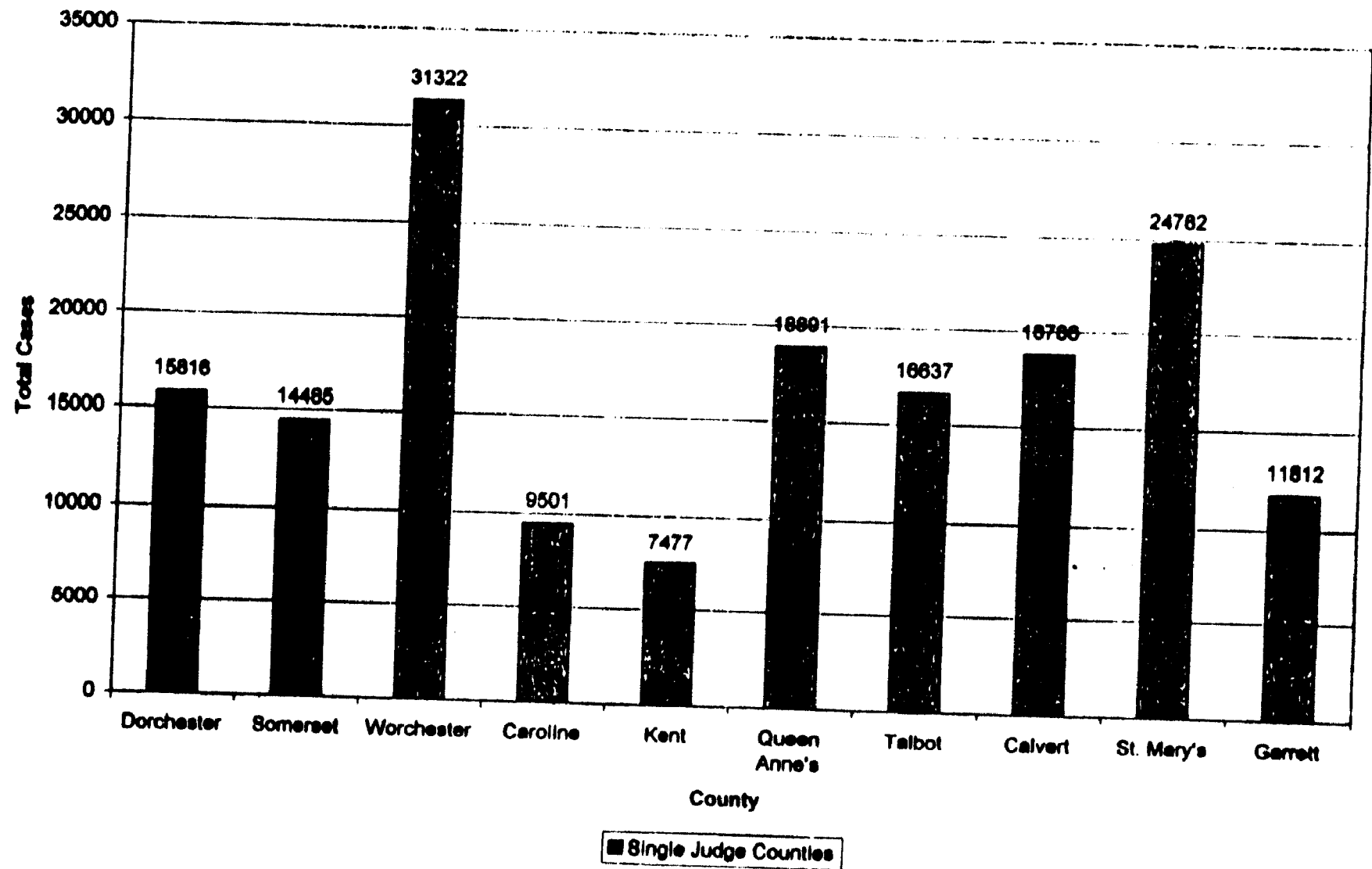


Chart #4






Frank M. Kratovil
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
District Number 5

Courthouse, Suite 345B
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20788
(301) 952-4023

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Martha F. Rasin
Chief Judge

FROM: 
Frank M. Kratovil
Administrative Judge, Prince George's County

DATE: July 29, 1999

SUBJECT: Additional Judge for Prince George's County

I am requesting an additional judge for the Fifth Judicial District. The reasons for my request are as follows:

1. The press of domestic violence cases.
2. The trial time required for automobile tort cases, particularly those \$10,000 and up.
3. The anticipated increase in cases per judge because of the Peace Orders provision.
4. The operation of two new regional booking facilities; thus, the increase in arrests and prosecutions on trial dockets.

Our Domestic Violence case load has remained constant for two (2) years. We are handling 3,545 to 3,607 cases a year. In this category alone, the judges are required to manage at least 295 cases (this number is based on 12 judges).

Although the number of civil cases filed has been fairly constant for the last two (2) years, the number of large claims has increased substantially.

April 1999	1475
May 1999	1221
June 1999	1427

The complexity of these cases is not allowing our judges to complete their dockets. In the month of June, the judges had to continue 28 cases because they were unable to reach them on their docket. For the first two (2) weeks in July, there was a total of 19 cases continued for the same reason. Most of the continued cases were automobile tort cases. The attorneys for these cases are prepared to try the case and litigating these cases requires extensive time. Although we have made certain docket adjustments, the burden is still unmanageable. We have added one additional courtroom to handle civil cases twice a week. It should also be noted that the Fifth District Court ranks first in the number of civil cases managed per judge.

In each of the big five (5) districts, the administrative judges are in fear of the "Peace Order" cases. These cases will require two (2) hearings just as the Domestic Violence cases do. There is no way to accurately estimate the number of cases that will make up the daily docket, we are estimating 40 cases per day. Even with the "creative" and "innovative" docket adjustments in which the Fifth Judicial District excels, with all due modesty, our judicial allocation will not be able to cope. I suspect that every police officer - Prince George's County, State Police and the 38 municipalities - will quickly realize how to dispose of a problem on their patrol "Get a Peace Order".

The installation of Regional Booking Stations in Upper Marlboro and Eastover will allow police officers to get back on the street far more quickly and be able to make additional arrests, thus increasing our dockets. These booking stations will be in existence next year.

Our district has seen an increase of 9% in motor vehicle cases. There appears to be a trend in the increase of cases in this category. An average of 730 motor vehicle cases per day are set in both Upper Marlboro and Hyattsville, however, we are still experiencing a backlog of cases to be set for court. I do not anticipate any significant decrease over the next several years.

Please note that the Fifth District still ranks first in the number of cases handled per Judge.

If you have any questions regarding the above mentioned information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

FMK/lmh

Exhibit C
Draft Legislation

DRAFT LEGISLATION—2000 REGULAR SESSION
JUDGESHIPS

BILL ORDER

AN ACT concerning

Judgeships - Circuit Court - Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery,
Prince George's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City

For the purpose of increasing the number of judges authorized for Circuits 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, Prince George's and Worcester Counties and Baltimore City); and providing for the effective date of this Act.

(rr) BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 1-503 (a) (2), (3), (15), (16), (23), and 1-503 (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

-----Circle as appropriate-----

(aed) July 1 effective date

(11/17/99)

DRAFT LEGISLATION -2000 REGULAR SESSION
JUDGESHIPs

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

1-503.

(a) In each county in the first seven judicial circuits there shall be the number of resident judges of the circuit court set forth below including the judge or judges provided for by the Constitution:

- (2) Anne Arundel - [10] 12
- (3) Baltimore County - [16] 18
- (15) Montgomery - [17] 19
- (16) Prince George's - [23] 25
- (23) Worcester - [2] 3

(b) In Baltimore City there shall be [30] 32 resident judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

(11/17/99)

FILED IN 12007